FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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Part of the extensive damage to one of several Isle of Wight barley fields. Did a UFO pass this way? See . . .

THE WHIPPINGHAM GROUND EFFECTS

PAGE 3

FIVE SHILLINGS

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Vol 14 No. 3 MAY-JUNE

THE LEOPARD'S SPOTS

AT THE END of the period covered by this issue of FSR, the Condon Committee at the University of Colorado is due to complete the investigation and study of residual UFO cases. The Committee then embarks on the compiling of the report which it has been charged to prepare.

So far, the life of the Committee has been marked by surprises, and a deal of criticism. It has even been suggested that the chairman, Dr. Edward U. Condon, has displayed lack of interest and bias. We confess that while we have been puzzled by some of the criticism, we have also formed the impression that at least part of it may have been merited. The old adage has it that "where there's smoke there's fire", and recent reports confirm, unhappily, that there might well have been some "fire" to have produced this "smoke".

Consider an article under the signature of Peter Michelmore in the April 1968 edition of *Escort* magazine. This reports an interview with Dr. Condon, given, we presume, some time in November or December 1967. It opens with the good doctor shrugging his shoulders in frustration as he says: "This is like being chief of a fire department that only answers false alarms." Later in the article it is stated that:

"The sleuths in Colorado have examined 1,500 saucer reports over the past year, but they are no closer to explaining UFOs than when they started.

" 'We have not seen a damn thing,' said Dr. Condon. 'It cannot be denied that some cases are very puzzling, that sensible people have actually seen some strange things in the sky. But it is my bet that all this will be explained one day when we know more about atmospheric phenomena.' "

After discussing a number of lunatic fringe and hoax cases, Dr. Condon concludes with a reference to the famous Washington National Airport incident, telling how he had traced two airport control officers who had been on duty at the time. These men had been subjected to so much ridicule that they declined to talk about UFOs—particularly as they had seen them many times since over the same airport. The report of the interview is then concluded with the lines:

" 'You see,' said Dr. Condon. 'The whole business is crazy.' "

Quite apart from Dr. Condon's expressed views, we find it alarming that such a prominent scientist, entrusted with the chairmanship of a body of researchers commissioned to study an unusual and persistent phenomenon, should see fit so to discuss his study at its half-way stage.

The publication of reports of this nature has prompted us to enquire whether or not there are recorded instances of Dr. Condon's reaction when face to face with other new and revolutionary ideas. We quickly found a pointer in the case of Dr. Emmanuel Velikovsky.

Velikovsky's vast studies of geological findings, of Biblical stories, folklore and mythology, led him to pronounce revolutionary theories about our planetary neighbours, and about Earth's evolution in giant cataclysmic steps. His first book, *Worlds in Collision*, was published in 1950, and *Earth in Upheaval* followed later. This impudent assault on accepted principles did not go down well with the Scientific Establishment. Velikovsky was reviled and ridiculed as a hoaxer. In the van of the counter-attack was Dr. E. U. Condon, at that time Director of the National Bureau of Standards; a scathing review of *Worlds in Collision* appeared under his signature in *New Republic* on April 24, 1950. Here is a section typical of the article:

"The physical, chemical and astronomical statements which Velikovsky makes, however, are all so completely at variance with known principles that this reviewer finds it much easier to believe that the events in question really were caused by the direct intervention of those various gods than that they happened in the circumstances which Velikovsky invents for their correlation."

When new and revolutionary ideas threaten to bring their long-established edifices crumbling down on them, the orthodox hierarchy always fight back bitterly from behind barricades of "known principles". Characteristically they ignore the fact that there was once a time when even those principles were unknown.

It is an irony that nowadays, eighteen years after the publication of *Worlds in Collision*, some of Velikovsky's ideas, at that time wildly unacceptable, have been shown by researchers to be correct. We presume they have taken their places in the ranks of "known principles".

No wonder there are some who suggest that Dr. Condon was chosen for this particular task because his attitude could be guaranteed. For our part, we think it more likely that such considerations never entered anyone's head when the team was chosen in 1966, and that Dr. Condon was selected only because he was an eminent scientist who at that time had never tangled at length with the UFO problem.

The proof of the Condon Report will be in the reading thereof, and it will be unwise of anyone to "expect the Earth". There is one fact that should not be forgotten, however, and that is that a tidy sum of American public money has been expended on this project. While reasonable people will not expect a solution to the UFO problem, certainly they will expect a sensible approach to it, without resort either to hoary, time-worn "explanations", or to vilification and ridicule of witnesses and serious researchers.

If the American public is to get good value for all those hundreds of thousands of dollars, then it seems that the leopard will have to have changed most of its spots since 1950, a process which apparently had not even started by the end of 1967, if we are to take the *Escort* article at face value.

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Supplement to **The UFO Evidence,** 200 pages of reports issued by Projects Grudge and Blue Book, 1951-53. Price $5 (first-class postage $1 extra, $2 — or equivalent — other countries). Publishers: NICAP, 1536 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington DC, 20036, USA.

THE WHIPPINGHAM GROUND EFFECTS

WAS THE DAMAGE TO CROPS CAUSED BY A UFO?

By LEONARD G. CRAMP

During the summer of 1967 the flight of an unusual aerial object was observed by schoolboys in England's South Coast holiday island, the Isle of Wight. Our contributor, well known for his two books, *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer* and *Piece for a Jigsaw*, has had many contributions in the pages of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, including one in our very first issue in January 1955. The investigation which he and his friends made of this 1967 incident was so meticulous that we are delighted to present the report for our readers.

AT a quarter to nine on a fine, cloudless morning last year (July 10, 1967), two pupils of the Whippingham Primary School, near Newport, Isle of Wight, were lining up with their fellows to enter school when a stationary object in the northern sky caught the attention of one of the boys. The object was "milky-white" and "cloud-like" and looked like a disc with a bi-convex section. It may or may not be significant that immediately prior to the sighting the boy's eye had been attracted by falling ash, drifting in a *westerly* direction across the sky. Apparently ash does occasionally drift across to the school from a works situated farther to the west, but then the ash is carried *eastwards* by a westerly wind. On the morning in question there was no wind, and "there seemed to be silvery sparks around the large pieces of ash". It was while looking at this that the UFO was first seen hovering near the distant B.H.C. test tank research establishment.

When the boys came out into the playground at 1030, the boy who had spotted the original object looked in the direction in which he had first seen it at 0845, but saw nothing. Then his companion spotted the same (or a similar) object further to the west. About a dozen boys watched as the UFO moved in a westerly direction. Its size was estimated to be "larger than a bus". During this time the UFO was descending and was "fluttering down like something out of control". This motion continued until the UFO was at approximately 2 degrees elevation; then it seemed to "correct itself" and began to climb. The westerly traverse between the first and second sightings was calculated to be approximately 30 degrees. The UFO was then lost to view behind a line of trees.

On his way home that evening on top of a bus, one witness saw marks in the barley field (Site A) which is bounded by the Newport-East Cowes road and adjoins the school playground.

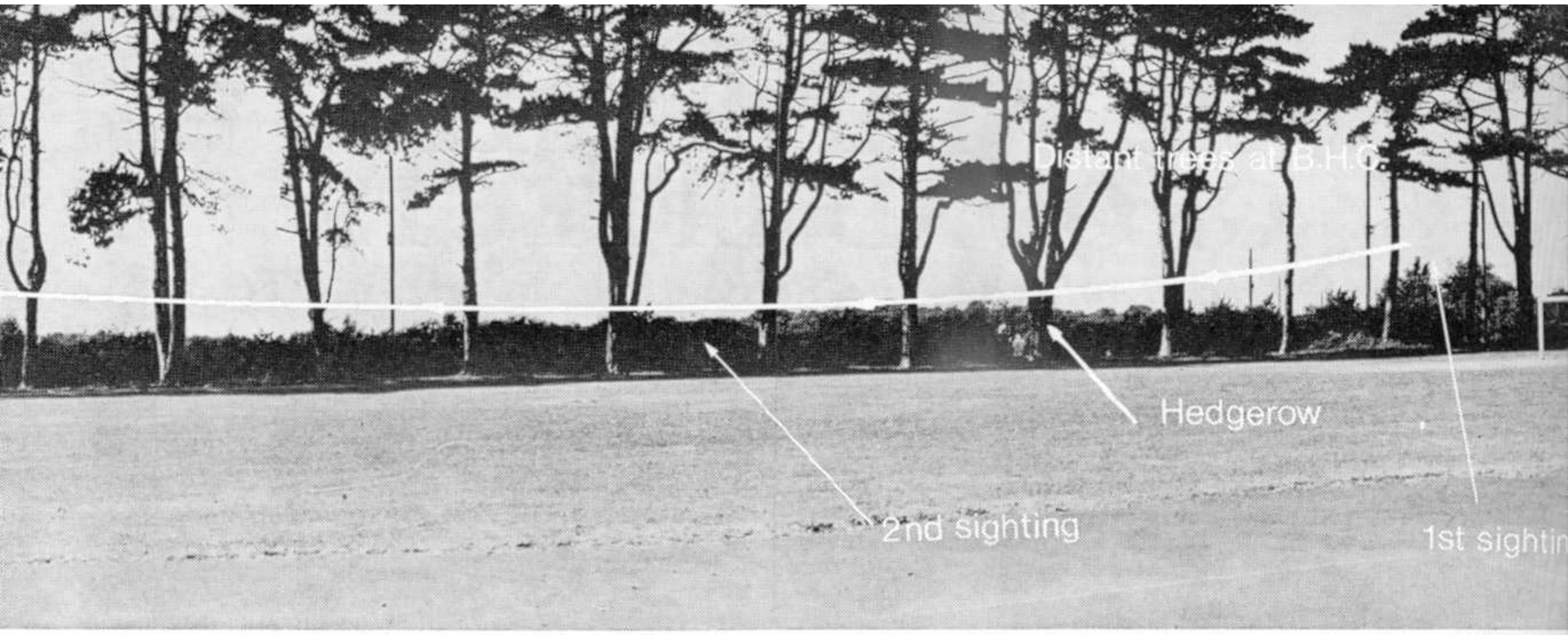
Investigations of this site revealed large areas (up to 6 yds. wide) of damage, in the form of depressed and flattened stalks, which made an almost completely circular pattern. The damage had a very mechanical appearance in a vortex pattern, sometimes clockwise and sometimes anti-clockwise, but predominantly clockwise. The centres of some of the vortices had tufts with broken stalks and others had nothing—obviously the roots and stalks had disappeared completely. In these areas the heads of corn had been denuded and looked (to quote one farmer) "as if they had been thrashed". From the rim of several of these vortices there were "lanes", about 1ft. in width, which began in the barley that had been pressed down outwardly. These lanes tapered to an end in the midst of untouched barley.

At first the investigators presumed that the damage was restricted to the area near the school, but further investigation revealed that the marks in the Site "A" field continued, in a diminishing pattern, in a northerly direction parallel to and 12 yds. from the hedge lining the Cowes-Newport road. The marks on the Northern and Western boundaries of Site "A" were discovered at a later date when a study was made of aerial photographs.

The barley field denoted as Site "B" has a piggery on its boundary, and the damage here was discovered to be in the form of a continuous trough some 3 to 4 yds. in width and 88 yds. in length. The trough runs close to —and parallel with—the access path to the piggery. There is a strong resemblance to the general characteristics at Site "A". The undamaged heads of corn on the northern side of the trough were in a uniform line towards the east, as though the barley had been swept by a broad broom. The damage discovered on this site corresponds exactly to the 30-degree traverse indicated by the boys. The westerly end of the trough thins out and skirts round a small derelict shed. This thinning out coincides with the point at which the object was said to have been climbing. This completely supports the suggestion that, if an aerial object produces effects on the ground because it is at a low altitude, then those effects must diminish as the object gains height.

In the "eye" of one of the whorls a 6in. cube section of concrete, weighing a few pounds, was found resting on some of the stalks but covered by top stalks. Although the investigators tried to identify the piece with others on a nearby disused gun-site, they could not satisfy themselves that it had come from there, although this is the likeliest possibility.

A further significant point is that the body of a wood-pigeon had been seen at the precise point at which the witnesses stated the object was first seen hovering. This



View from school showing UFO flight path, which, it is emphasised, was beyond the line of trees

has a special bearing on the discovery of pigeon feathers, which were later found distributed along the damaged areas.

The investigation continued into Site "C", which is a barley field similar to Site "A". The damage here had the same general characteristics as in Site "A"—i.e. intermittent with central tufts and occasional "lanes" which led off towards the southern hedgerow. As with Site "B", the undamaged heads of corn were regimented towards the east.

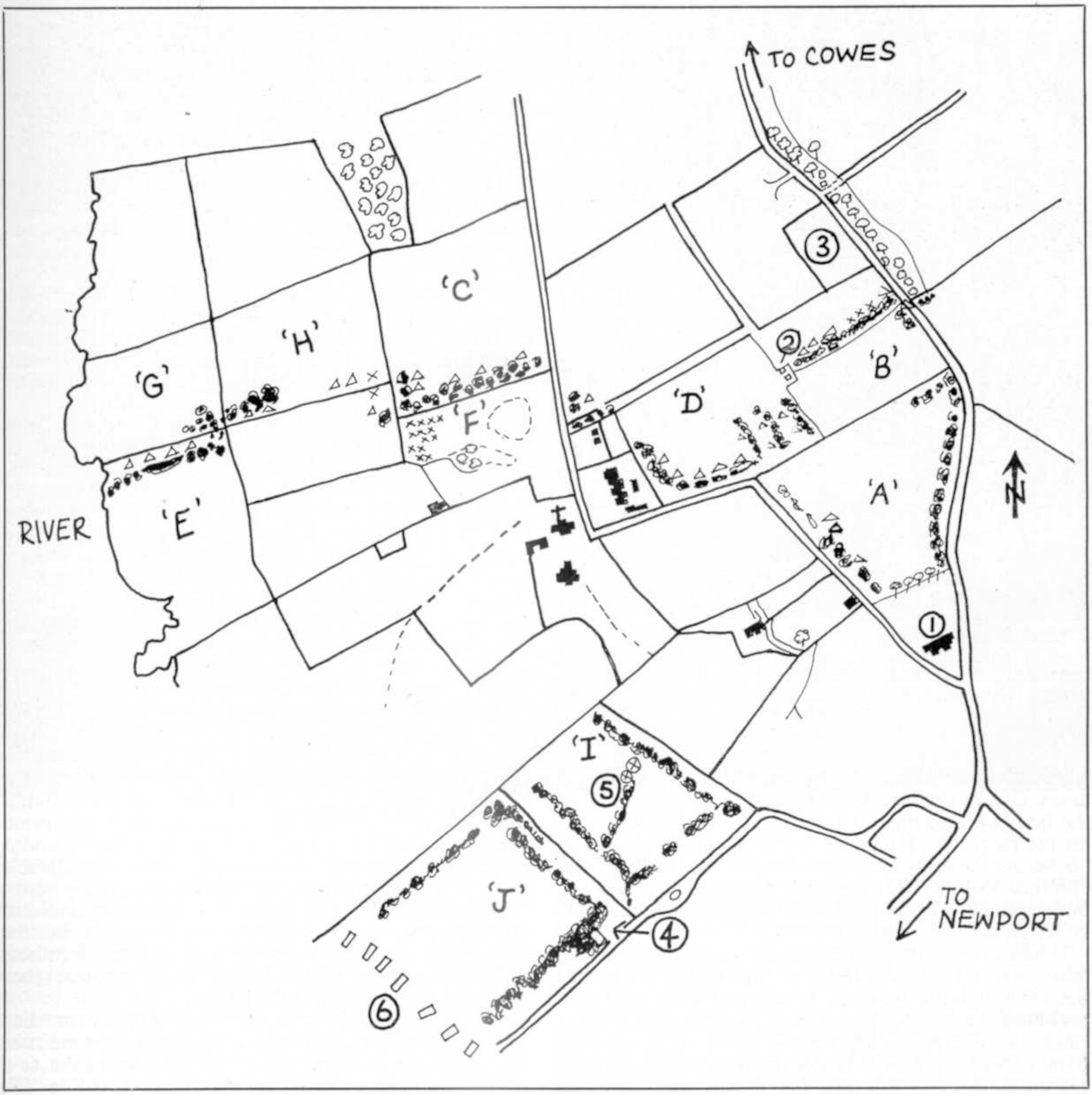
Damage on sites D, G, H, I and J (all barley fields) followed the general pattern of Site "A", while Site "E" had characteristics of both Sites "A" and "B"—i.e. intermittent and trough-like damage.

Several stones were found in the damage at Site "C", lying in a similar position to the piece of concrete at Site "B".

Site "E", which is grassland, had large numbers of stones (from several ounces to a few pounds) which were deposited on top of the grass over a wide area. Many of these stones could not have been in these positions for long, since the grass underneath was still quite green.

At Site "C" the torn remains of a pigeon's wing were found, feathers being distributed and co-mingled with the rotary lay of the damaged barley. One of these feathers was found tightly wedged between a piece of stone and other foreign matter. It was this discovery that caused the investigators to back-track over sites A, B, C and D, where more feathers were found,

The damage continuing in Site 'A' towards the distant B.H.C. Test Tanks



Sketch-map of the fields around Whippingham, Isle of Wight.

Key: **1.** The School **2.** The piggery **3.** British Hovercraft Corporation test tanks **4.** Derelict harvester **5.** H.T. poles **6.** Caravan site

Note: With the exception of 'F,' the lettered "sites," and also that lying between 'H' and 'F,' were all barley fields. It was in these that the damage was discovered. In the sketch, areas of damage are marked by the dark, curly pattern, and should not be confused with the conventional signs for trees elsewhere. The positions of the stones are denoted by crosses in sites 'B' and 'F,' and the approximate areas where pigeon feathers were found are indicated by small triangles.

Our cover illustration shows the deep scar on Site 'B' looking along the UFO flight path. The small hut around which the marks meander can be clearly seen. Note also the rotary nature of the damage

Typical rotary damage on Site 'C' in which the last remains of the little wood pigeon was found. This photo shows one wing, the many other feathers are camouflaged among the barley. Here again the broken and thrust down effect is most evident

constituting a continuous trail throughout the damaged areas. One of the investigators then remembered seeing the body of a pigeon lying in the Newport-Cowes road on the morning of July 10, in the position referred to above. As the body had been only a few yards from the entrance to Site "B", this area was searched, but the body could not be found. Some feathers were, however, collected for later analysis.

When the extent of the damage to their fields had been seen by the local farmers, they could not accept the idea that the weather, which had been very fine preceding the discovery of the damage, could have caused such effects. They agreed, individually, that the damage was too localised to be the result of any natural causes known to them, and one farmer said "it looks as though a mad thing has gone through there."

Could the damage have been caused by straying cattle? This question was answered when the team was shown an adjoining field where cows had strayed. There was no similarity at all between the two effects. Moreover, the damage at Site "A" was intermittent and had no interconnecting "lanes" between the larger areas of damage.

Perhaps, then, shorter-legged animals—e.g. dogs, pigs, etc.—might have caused the damage? This possibility was discarded when one of the farmers came through his fields followed by two Labrador dogs (one of which was a fully-grown dog and the other a few-months-old puppy). The dogs gambolled through the barley with an abandon that worried the non-farming team. However, the farmer was completely unconcerned, for the stalks of barley resumed their original state as soon as the dogs had moved farther into the field. Though the puppy twisted himself round and round in the barley, there were no traces left of his passage and the team was therefore able to discount one more theory of natural causes.

There remained the possibility that freak winds, sufficient to cause a minor whirlwind or "back-draught" effects, could have caused the damage, and the opinion of a professional meteorologist was sought. He stated that this would have been impossible. This opinion is considered to be fully borne out by the regimented pattern of the damage (absolutely parallel to hedgerows and unhedged paths, precise right-angled turns, the skirting of a dilapidated and overgrown hut, etc.), which was most unlikely to have been caused by some inanimate source.

Much of the damage coincided with the spot over which the witnesses claimed to have seen the UFO. It might, however, be argued that all the witnesses saw was the "eye" of a moving whirlwind taking dust and debris along with it. If this was so, then such a whirlwind seen at that range must have caused considerably more noise (one authority instances a noise like an express train) than the silence which attended the sighting.

It must be pointed out that the rotary pattern left in the barley *was* consistent with the clockwise rotation of whirlwinds in the Northern hemisphere, but in a number of cases the rotation was counter-clockwise and the vortices alternated everywhere.

Although the damage was spread over a considerable area of the countryside, the width was restricted within about 1 to 6 yds. Even at the narrowest widths, the damage had been violent—the stalks having been broken and flattened, heads denuded and some central tufts of corn completely removed. Any whirlwind capable of such havoc must not only have been attended by terrific noise but must have caused considerable atmospheric disturbance over a radius of many yards. The effects of such a disturbance would have tended to diminish towards the perimeter of the vortex, but the barley was uniformly depressed and was very localised, e.g. as though a large plate had been spun at great speed while being pressed into the barley.

In several places large stones (alien to the surrounding earth) were found, and in one particular spot the cube of concrete mentioned earlier, similar to pieces at a disused gun-site a quarter of a mile away. At Site "F", which was a freshly sown meadow, numbers of large stones were distributed over a considerable area. The crushed and yellowed state of the grass under these stones indicated that the depositing must have taken place when the grass was nearing maturity.

Other materials, such as old—or prematurely aged—bones, torn paper, etc., were also found on top of and sandwiched between layers of flattened barley. These finds were significant in that they were almost entirely restricted to the areas of damage and bore the same signs of dehydration as the surrounding barley, which supports the view that they must have been deposited there during the action of the damage.

Before the UFO sighting had been reported to the

Aerial view of Site 'A' looking S.W. showing school boundary

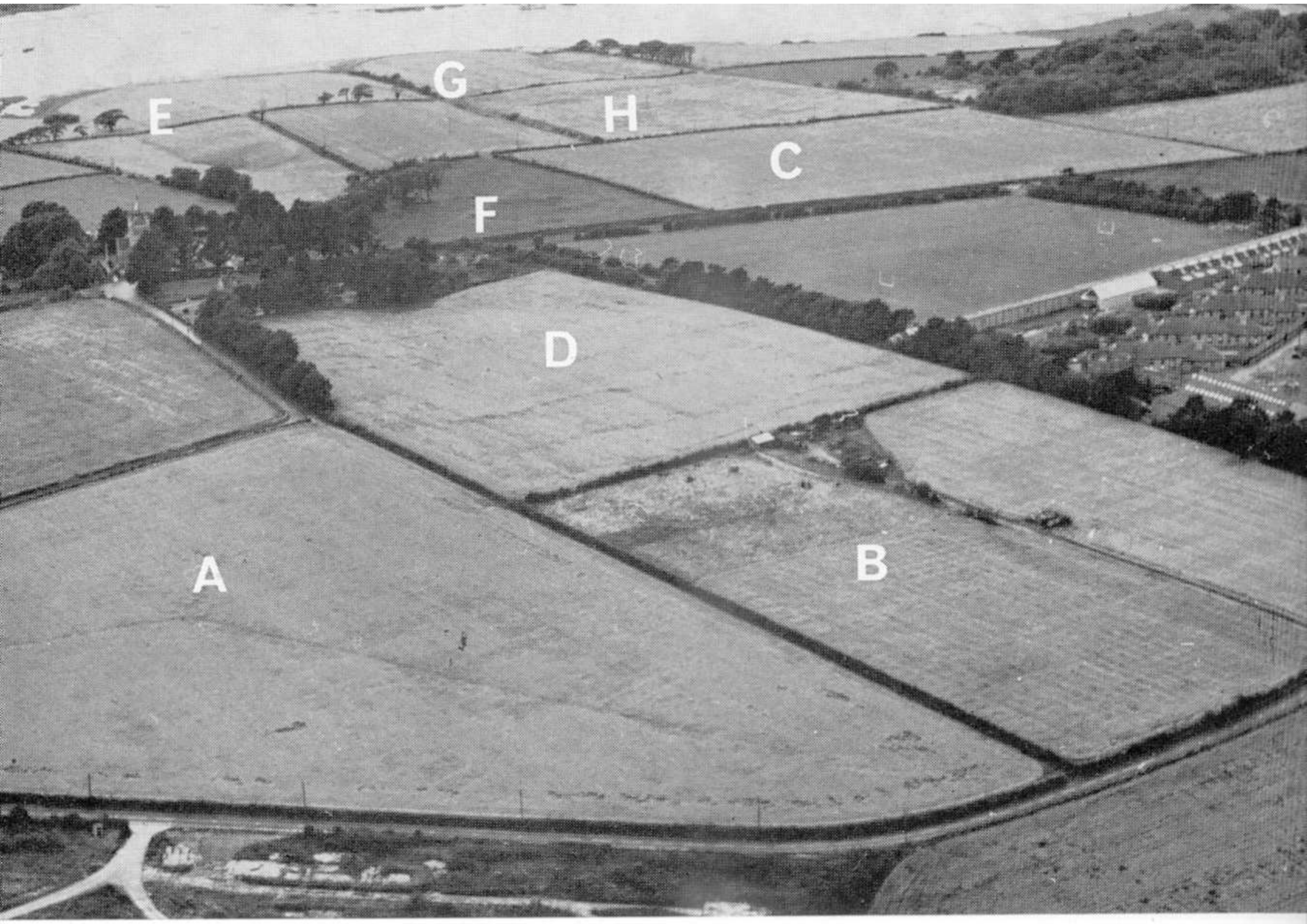
investigators, one of the team had noticed a dead wood-pigeon at the side of the road (as mentioned earlier), but this had not been remembered until the investigation revealed feathers, etc., in the areas of damage. An obvious inference would be that the feathers found later must have come from the same bird, but this cannot be proved as a fact. At Site "C" a wing and over fifty feathers were found. These were distributed in layers and showed the same spiral effects as the smashed barley —i.e. each layer of convolute barley had to be lifted to expose further feathers.

As mentioned earlier, the discovery of the feathers caused the team to back-track over the other sites and finally to the road (since this was a week or two later, the pigeon's carcase had disappeared). It was then realised that the spot where the dead pigeon had been coincided exactly with the position of the UFO at the first sighting. As more damage was found in fields right down to the river Medina, the team looked for any similar signs and soon realised that the pattern was being maintained. Feathers were found—but usually only after careful examination of the lower layers of barley—often in profusion over quite a few yards, then there would be a total lack so that it appeared as if the trail had ended, but in fact the trail continued to the limit of the investigation.

Later analysis by a competent ornithologist revealed that all of the 130 feathers were identifiable as being those of a young wood-pigeon. Significantly, none of the feathers was duplicated. The ornithologist was therefore confident that all the feathers had come from the same bird.

The magnitude of the force exerted by the cause of the damage was emphasised by the discovery of small feathers firmly sandwiched between a stone and another substance, which had the appearance of baked clay, and other feathers which were co-mingled with and even pierced on stalks of the barley. Though these effects can equally be attributed to a whirlwind type of phenomenon, the magnitude of this force was clearly out of all proportion to the restricted nature of the damage and the deliberately controlled path taken. For this reason, neither a whirlwind nor a plasma-type (ball-lightning) phenomenon can satisfactorily explain the cause of the damage.

The investigation was concluded at Site "E" on the easterly bank of the river Medina. At this point it was discovered that the main trough in the barley thinned out, this being consistent with the gentle fall of the land towards the banks of the river (and the thing which



Aerial view looking towards the River Medina

caused the trough keeping at constant level flight?). Field-glasses revealed further marks in a barley field on the opposite, western, side of the river and these also began some way up the bank, as on the eastern side, curving slightly towards the west (sketch map). Owing to the nearness of the harvest, these marks were not investigated.

There would appear to be a possible corroboration of the UFO sighting on July 10, for, some time after the above investigation was concluded, a report was received of a UFO sighting that same week in July. Again, the witness was a young lad, but this sighting was made several miles away at Carisbrooke Grammar School situated on the opposite side of the river to the Whippingham School.

At the time in July, this youngster told his parents of what he claimed to have seen while playing cricket. They admitted they treated the story very lightly. His account was much the same, the UFO appearing about half-an-inch at arm's length, low down over the trees of Parkhurst Forest and flying in a westerly direction. He claimed he saw something shiny on the disc that looked like portholes.

This report is particularly interesting, for one morning while going to work last July one of the investigators of the Whippingham case spotted some marks in a barley field near Parkhurst Forest. Not being able to link them with the Whippingham case, he had mentioned it to the other members of the team and then dismissed it from his mind. But the remarkable thing is that a line bisecting the end of the barley damage on Site "E" on the eastern bank of the river with the recommencement of that line in the field on the western side, also passes right over Parkhurst Forest—and over the adjacent barley field, where those same marks were seen that early July morning!

Here we have an entirely separate sighting of a UFO, reported at the time (last July), but not revealed to the investigators till later, which was observed several miles away from the Whippingham sighting. Only the date, the time and the direction of flight link the two cases, but the damage in the barley field on Parkhurst road strongly corroborates it!

Piece for a Jigsaw by Leonard G. Cramp, price 27s. 6d. Somerton Publishing Co. Ltd., Newport Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, England.

Analysis of 8,260 UFO Sightings

A STUDY OF CASES REPORTED TO THE U.S. AIR FORCE

By DR. JACQUES VALLÉE

All available Air Force summaries of UFO cases have been punched into computer cards for convenient information retrieval. The present article provides some elementary frequency tables giving the number of sightings in each category of interpretation used by the U.S. Air Force as a function of time of year, population density and other parameters for every geographic area. This analysis leads to the observation of several simple laws.

THE STATISTICS presented here are a by-product of a computer-based study of geographic patterns related to the UFO Phenomenon. In the course of this study it was convenient to convert the totality of the U.S. Air Force statistics into machine-readable form. As readers may not be aware of the current state of the problem, a few words of introduction may be helpful before these statistics are discussed.

In spite of frequent rumours to the contrary, neither Project Blue Book nor the Condon Committee at the University of Colorado is in a position to produce historical and background statistics from the existing records of UFO observations. A popular magazine article published in 1966 and inspired by the Air Force made reference to Blue Book and "its big automated filing system" implying that the Air Force could retrieve essential parameters of sightings from its files by automatic means. This is definitely a false statement.

Yet such a system would obviously be a vital part of any serious study of UFOs. All sciences of observation rely on extensive archives of carefully recorded data; as a special case of aerial phenomena, UFO events can be dealt with in the same manner. The methods of meteorology, in particular, would seem to be applicable; they involve the recording of reported events over as broad a time-basis as possible, and reduction of the resulting catalogues to a form suitable for analysis. Certainly, a purely statistical study of a phenomenon as elusive as the UFO has no value in itself, but it is indispensable as a support for any serious (passive or active) physical investigation of the phenomena involved.

The feasibility of such a system, on the other hand, is clear since the following parameters are available for every UFO sighting which is officially recorded by American military authorities:

(1) Date of sighting.
(2) Location of sighting.
(3) Country, state or geographic area.
(4) Military classification.
(5) Names of witnesses.
(6) Result of investigation.
(7) Special comments for radar, photo or physical specimen.

In the course of our study of the files, it was natural to construct an index containing these seven pieces of data for all officially-reported sightings. If we take into account the fact that Blue Book historical records are somewhat incomplete, we find that information can be obtained for 8,260 reports sent to the U.S. Air Force by military or civilian observers between 1942 and 1965. All these data were punched into cards in a routine fashion after a standard format had been defined. A digital computer was then programmed to give some preliminary statistical tables. To present these tables is the purpose of the article.

* * *

Out of 8,260 reports examined, 8,084 gave precise date and geographic location. One hundred and ninety-four (roughly one in every forty) included photographs. Of these, eight (including the Drury photographs taken in Port Moresby, New Guinea, on August 23, 1953) were classified. Two hundred and twenty-five were radar cases, of which sixteen were unidentified and forty-eight classified. For the record, it may be useful to list these unidentified radar cases:

1	15 October	1948	Kyushu, Japan	
2	27 March	1950	Motubu, Okinawa, Japan	
3	24 August	1950	Bermuda	
4	21 September	1950	Provincetown, Massachusetts	
5	13 September	1951	Goose AFB, Labrador	
6	28 January	1953	Albany, Georgia	
7	3 February	1953	Iceland	Classified case
8	17 February	1953	Fort Austin, Michigan	Classified case
9	24 June	1953	Iwo Jima	
10	5 August	1953	Bismarck	
11	28 September	1953	Palmdale, California	
12	20 March	1955	Tokyo, Japan	Classified case
13	12 February	1956	Goose Bay, Labrador	
14	18 October	1956	Wheelus AFB, Libya	Classified case
15	3 June	1957	Shreveport, Louisiana	
16	25 July	1957	Niagara Falls, N.Y.	

Table I
List of radar sightings listed as "Unidentified". Air Force files

In order to analyse the bulk of the files we proceeded as follows:

(1) We took the Air Force's interpretation at face value. In the table above, the time distribution of the sightings is such as to arouse certain suspicions—to say the least—concerning the methods used by the Air Force to arrive at their conclusion. The fact that no unidentified radar case appears after 1957 is the consequence of a selection effect, and it is precisely in recognising such biases that our retrieval system can be useful.

(2) Sightings were organised for clarity into four categories of interpretation:

(a) Man-made objects (aircraft, balloon, satellite).
(b) Astronomical (meteors, Venus, total astro.).
(c) Varia ("Other", "Pending", "Insufficient").
(d) Unknown.

(3) Statistics were first compiled over weekly intervals for fine detail.

For every year the weekly number of cases of each category was displayed as shown in Table II (year 1964). From these tables certain observations can be made immediately: as could be expected, aircraft mis-identifications are most frequent during summertime, while satellites peak in late July and early August. The conditions of maximum brightness for Venus are not seasonally linked, of course. Meteors, on the other hand, are reported in all periods.

YEAR 1964—RAW DATA

Month	Week	Man-made			Astronomical			Varia				
		Plane	Balloon	Satellite	Meteor	Venus	Total	Other	Insufficient	Pending	Unknown	Week Total
January	1				2		2		2			4
	2											0
	3			2		1	1		1			4
	4	1		1	3		3	1	2			8
February	1			2	3	1	4					6
	2	3						2	2			7
	3			3	2		2		1			6
	4					2	3	2	1			6
March	1			1		2	2	1	1			5
	2	2		1				1	2			6
	3			1	1	1	2	1	2			6
	4					1	1	1				2
April	1	1		2	2		2	1			1	7
	2		2	3					3		1	9
	3			3		1	1	3	2			9
	4	2		1	2		4	6	1		1	15
May	1	2	1	5		4	5	2	1			16
	2	1	1	2		1	2	3	1		1	11
	3	9		9	2	3	5	3	7		1	34
	4	1	1	3	3	1	4	4	4	1	1	19
June	1	4			1		3	1	1			9
	2	2		1				5	1		1	10
	3	1						1	5			7
	4	2	1	2	1		1	1				7
July	1	5			2		2	1	4	1		13
	2	1	2	4	1		3	3	2			15
	3	2	3	12	3	1	4	4	3		2	30
	4	4	3	21	1		3	4	3		2	40
August	1	3	1	13	3	1	6		5			28
	2	2		6	2		4		4		4	20
	3	2	1	5	2		4	2	3		1	18
	4	4		5	1	1	6	1				16
September	1		1	4	2	1	6	3	4			18
	2				1	1	3	2	1		1	7
	3	2			1		1	1	2			6
	4	1						1	2			4
October	1	1			1		1	3	1			6
	2	1		1				1				3
	3			1		1	2	1	2			6
	4			2	1		1	4	2			9
November	1		1	3	4		5	1	3			13
	2	1		2	1		1		2	1		7
	3	3		7	2		2	1	3		1	17
	4		1	3	1		1		4			9
December	1			2	1		2		1	1		6
	2						1		1			2
	3			1				3				4
	4		1				1					2
Total		63	20	134	52	24	106	75	92	4	18	512

Table II

Next, we compute for each year the contribution of every weekly interval. Here we find that seasonal effects do not play an important rôle, although the majority of the sample is made up of North American sightings. The curves (which cannot be shown here for lack of space) do not exhibit any striking feature typical of sociological phenomena or climatic effects: in other words, if plotted in the same manner, the number of racial riots, of hospitalisations for broken legs, or the sales of paperback books about hunting and fishing, would behave quite differently. On the other hand, the number of reports is often seen to rise suddenly (this is true in 1950, 51, 52, 53, 57, 60, 64, 65) and then to decay more or less exponentially. The interesting fact is that sudden variations of the number of reports are not linked to season or to obvious causes such as the meteoric activity. For that matter, the number of meteors reported to the Air Force as UFOs is not linked to meteoric activity either, in direct contradiction to Air Force doctrine! Especially interesting is the fact that the 1954 wave cannot be detected from these data: this gives perhaps a measure of the lack of representativity of the Air Force data when discussing the phenomenon as a whole.

Finally, it is interesting to break down these figures further according to geographic area. Out of 8,260 cases studied, 6,743 were U.S. cases and the remaining 1,517 were distributed as follows:

STATISTICS BY COUNTRY—RAW DATA

	A/C	Bal.	Sat.	Met.	Ven.	Ast.	Oth.	Ins.	Pen.	Uni.	Total
Pacific Ocean ...	21	6	156	90	1	94	30	67	0	9	383
Japan	8	10	8	33	7	48	19	16	0	14	123
Far East and Indonesia ...	14	14	19	24	2	30	12	22	5	7	123
Mediterranean Area ...	5	9	7	14	0	15	3	17	0	4	60
Germany ...	6	8	2	20	1	24	8	15	0	2	65
Communist Countries ...	5	1	1	3	2	5	8	11	0	0	31
British Isles ...	5	3	0	8	1	10	7	10	0	2	37
Scandinavia ...	2	0	1	16	0	17	6	4	0	1	31
Atlantic Ocean	8	9	35	58	6	70	34	44	1	10	211
Canada ...	7	7	6	25	2	37	7	13	0	3	80
Greenland, Labrador, New'land ...	13	9	1	27	4	40	17	12	1	7	100
Middle East and India ...	9	3	2	37	2	39	16	19	1	11	100
Other Locations	6	3	3	17	1	26	7	22	0	3	70
Latin America	3	2	10	18	5	25	19	39	1	4	103
Total	112	84	251	390	34	480	193	311	9	77	1517

STATISTICS BY COUNTRY—PERCENTAGES

	A/C	Bal.	Sat.	Met.	Ven.	Ast.	Oth.	Ins.	Pen.	Uni.	Total
Pacific Ocean ...	5	2	41	23	0	25	8	17	0	2	100
Japan	7	8	7	27	6	39	15	13	0	11	100
Far East and Indonesia ...	11	11	15	20	2	24	10	18	4	6	100
Mediterranean Area ...	8	15	12	23	0	25	5	28	0	7	100
Germany ...	9	12	3	31	2	37	12	23	0	3	100
Communist Countries ...	16	3	3	10	6	16	26	35	0	0	100
British Isles ...	14	8	0	22	3	27	19	27	0	5	100
Scandinavia ...	6	0	3	52	0	55	19	13	0	3	100
Atlantic Ocean	4	4	17	27	3	33	16	21	0	5	100
Canada ...	9	9	8	31	3	46	9	16	0	4	100
Greenland, Labrador, New'land ...	13	9	1	27	4	40	17	12	1	7	100
Middle East and India ...	9	3	2	37	2	39	16	19	1	11	100
Other Locations	9	4	4	24	1	37	10	31	0	4	100
Latin America	3	2	10	17	5	24	18	38	1	4	100
Total	7	6	17	26	2	32	13	21	1	5	100

Table III

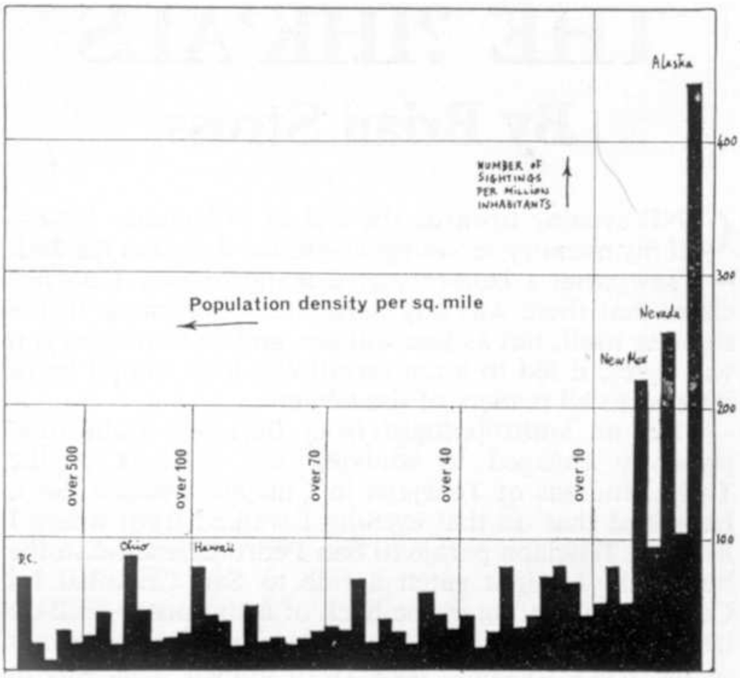
It will be noted that roughly half of the non-U.S. sightings were made over the oceans and that the eastern

regions (Middle East, India, Japan) have the highest proportion of unidentified cases.

When using these figures, the reader should keep in mind that the category "astronomical" includes the categories "Meteors" and "Venus" as well as miscellaneous interpretations which are not detailed. The figures listed in the "Total" column are indeed the total numbers of sightings, not the sums of all the other columns. The same applies, of course, in the computation of percentages, since the astronomical categories overlap.

Taking all U.S. cases and breaking the statistics in a state-by-state analysis, we can compute the contribution of each state for each category of interpretation, then study this as a function of area, population and population density. We also derived tables giving the number of sightings per million inhabitants and per 10,000 square miles for each state. These figures were broken according to categories of interpretation. The resulting tables are too extensive to be published here, but they may be the occasion of a separate publication when their analysis is completed. Generally speaking, these figures support the hypothesis that the UFO Phenomenon (as defined by the Air Force) is not correlated with population alone but varies very strikingly with population density. More precisely, **the number of reported UFO sightings per million people in American states rises very rapidly when population density decreases.**

Thus it would appear that the proportion of UFO witnesses is higher in low-population areas: States like New York, Massachusetts, Illinois or California are the biggest contributors in actual number of reports, but their populations include only about thirty reporters



per million. (Exact figures for these states are 24, 31, 22 and 40 respectively.) In states like New Mexico (population density = 8 inhab/sq. mile), Nevada or Wyoming (both of density 3) the Air Force has recorded, respectively, 221, 256 and 103 witnesses per million people.

This is a new confirmation of the "rural" character of the UFO Phenomenon, an outstanding fact we have noted several times when dealing with the 1954 wave in Europe. Here we find this effect confirmed on a sample whose dimension precludes the possibility of superficial chance variations.

JUNE 24th

Twenty-one years have passed since Kenneth Arnold sighted nine gleaming discs while flying over Mt. Rainer, U.S.A., and coined the name "flying saucer."

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THE ?IHK'ALS

By Brian Stross

ONE evening towards the end of November 1967—if my memory serves me aright the date was the 24th—I saw what I believe was a flying saucer. I do not claim that there was any particular significance in the sighting itself, but as you will see, and as I am sure you will agree, it led to a conversation which should be of interest to all readers of the REVIEW.

I am an anthropologist from Berkeley, California, presently engaged in studying the customs of the Tzeltal Indians of Tenejapa in Chiapas, Mexico. So it happened that on that evening I walked from where I live in a Tenejapa paraje to San Pedro Chenalhó in the hope that I might catch a ride to San Cristobal las Casas. I was sitting in the back of a stationary pick-up truck with my Indian assistant waiting for the owner of the truck to come back from dinner. This was in Chenalhó. It was a little after six o'clock and the sky was just dark enough to see the first few stars, and quite free of clouds. I looked up and saw what appeared to be a bright star moving rapidly across the sky. It had a powerful light that dimmed a little every once in a while, and was going in the opposite direction from the path that the sun takes (i.e. from west to east). I watched for about fifteen minutes, during which time it went from horizon to horizon in this mountainous country. Once in the middle of its course it made a rapid and very obvious zig-zag and then returned to its course. This zig-zag, combined with absolutely no noise, made me feel that it couldn't have been either an airplane or one of the U.S.'s or Russia's satellites. And anyway the light was too bright for the object to have been either.

Creature reports

My assistant watched it with me and then said that he and friends had seen the same kind of thing several times while talking late at night. He then told me a few more stories about his friends' experiences with the ?ihk'al, the little black being.

There are many tales in Tenejapa about the ?ihk'al, a 3ft. tall, hairy black humanoid, that has had encounters with the natives here. About twenty years ago, or less, there were many sightings of this creature or creatures, and several people apparently tried to fight it with machetes. One man also saw a small sphere following him from about 5ft. After many attempts he finally hit it with his machete and it disintegrated, leaving only an ashlike substance.

The ?ihk'als are said to live in many of the caves around here, and for this reason the natives don't enter these caves. Some people have seen these beings at the entrances to the caves. Occasionally people have been paralysed when they have encountered the ?ihk'al, but the paralysis is only temporary.

In addition to the flurry of ?ihk'als sighted about twenty years ago, others have been seen (but less frequently) on up to the present time. They are believed to be beings from another world, and some have been seen flying with some kind of rocket-like thing attached to the back. With this rocket they are said occasionally to have carried off people. It is said that two people can be carried by the ?ihk'al and his rocket at one time. Occasionally, too, other kinds of vehicles have been seen with the ?ihk'al, and in or near caves.

One man, drunk, met an ?ihk'al that jumped all around and kept tickling him. He tried to hit it with a stick, but couldn't. Finally he was exhausted and fell to the ground. The ?ihk'al left soon thereafter.

Interestingly enough, on the night that I sighted the moving light I found, when I reached San Cristobal, that an American woman had seen a light much closer to the ground that darted rapidly up and down flashing a brilliant light on the ground below. She is convinced that it was a flying saucer. She was in San Cristobal at the time and said that the craft was apparently in the direction of Tenejapa. This was the same night that I saw the light over Chenalhó.

Middle American Creature Reports

By Gordon Creighton

Mr. Creighton is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute (FRAI) and we have therefore asked him to comment on the article describing the ?ihk'als.

From the Viewpoint of Anthropology

THE TZELTALS belong, like their neighbours and close relatives the Tzotzils and the Mayas, to the Maya-Soke Linguistic Group (see sketch map of Middle America), and the words *ik*, *ikal*, or words very similar, are found in all these languages.

The Tzeltal words *ihk* and *ihk'al* (the adjectival form) simply mean "black being" or "black". Linguistic specialists who wish to be very correct write them, as Mr. Stross does, *?ihk* and *?ihk'al*, but non-linguistic mortals can dispense with the initial sign, which is of course used here as a conventional guide to pronunciation, and not as an interrogation.

To begin with, the Tzeltals and all these other Indian peoples of Middle America have numerous stories and legends and beliefs about little black creatures. For example the Tzeltals think that the Earth (flat, of course) is supported on four thick columns, at the bases of which there dwell certain dwarfs, black and only 1ft. high—their blackness being due, by the way, to the fact that they are constantly getting badly scorched by the Sun when He passes close by them every night as He travels through the Underworld.[1]

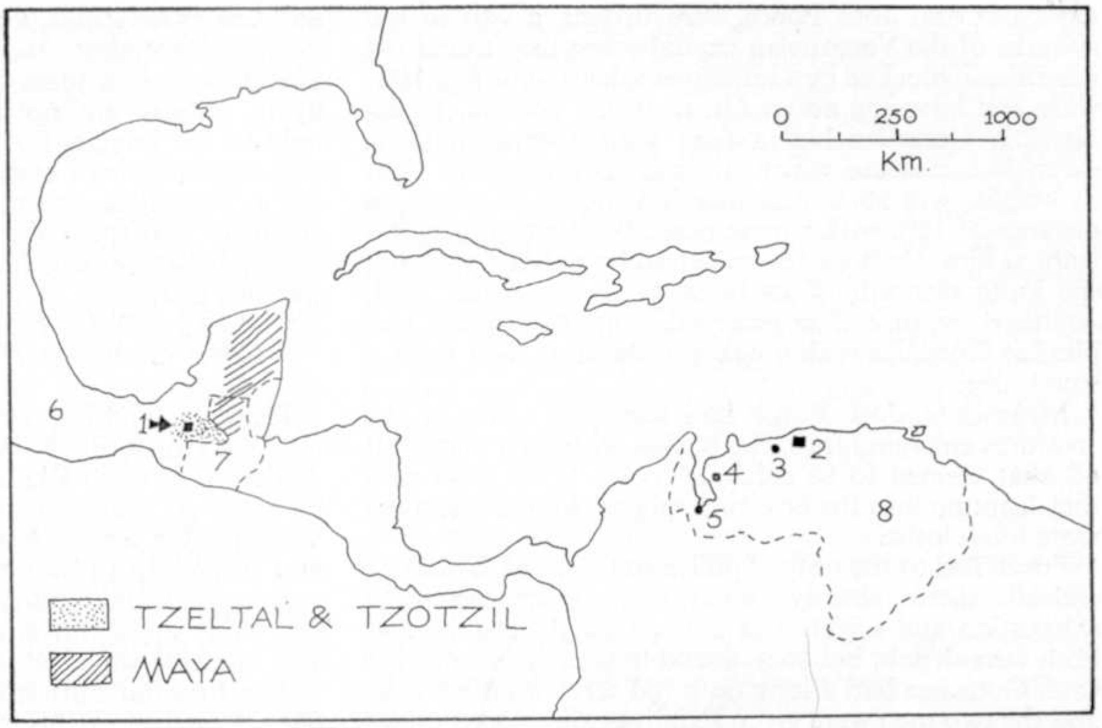
In the Maya language, we find that *ik* means air or wind, and *ikal* means a spirit, while *ek* means black.[2]

The Kekchi Maya, in the Alta Vera Paz region of Guatemala, talk of a *kek*.[3] The *kek* (meaning *black* in the Kekchi dialect of Maya) is said to be a centaur-like being that guards his patron's house at night, and

Based on author's sketch of Middle America

Key:

1. **San Cristobal**
2. **Caracas**
3. **Valencia**
4. **Carora**
5. **San Carlos del Zulia**
6. **Mexico**
7. **Guatemala**
8. **Venezuela**



frightens people at dusk. Black, ugly, hairy, he is half-human, with human hands but the hooves of a horse.

According to K. Sapper, who has studied these matters, the *kek* is an evil spirit (often in the form of a cow) that bewitches fields and crops, and harms people whom it meets alone at night.

Among the neighbouring Tzotzils, who resemble the Tzeltals closely in culture, we find the same words for black, *ik* and *ik'al*. *Ik'al* is the commonest form of the god of death. He is a little black man about 3ft. high,[3 and 4] who usually dresses in mestizo style—black trousers, shirt and a wide-brimmed hat. His clothes are dirty and smell of crow. He carries a machete, and announces his presence with a whistle. He eats raw human flesh, with a decided preference for human heads, but is not averse to other food too. His dwelling is a cave in some high mountain. Various caves are indeed designated locally as the lair of an *ik'al*, but he is also said to reside in the tower of a church at Chamula, and in the tower of the Church of Santo Domingo in San Cristobal Las Casas itself!

This ik'al of the Tzotzils flies through the air. Sometimes he steals women, and the women so taken are remarkably prolific, and may bear a child once a week, or once a month, or even daily. The offspring are black, and they learn the art of flying inside their father's cave.

Finally, to complete these notes on what I can gather or recall about legends and tales of small black creatures in Central and South America, I would mention the numerous references made by Lt.-Col. P. H. Fawcett,[5] to a dreaded race of *small*, *black*, *hairy* and *cannibalistic* creatures known in Portuguese as "Os Morcegos", the "Bat People", in the far interior of Brazil. Fawcett says these negroid troglodytes are an autochthonous species dating from the days before South America had its present conformation, and that pockets of them still remain, dwelling in natural caves and caverns, or in burrows or holes, with mouths about 12ft. wide, which they dig in the ground, and roofed over with branches and vegetation. These "Bat People" have an incredibly acute sense of smell, enabling them to hunt down men and animals at night with such uncanny skill that tradition holds them to be telepathic—which they may well be, in common with many of the tribes of forest Indians.

From the Viewpoint of Ufology

Let me say right at the outset that it is extremely heartening for us to learn now that a professional anthropologist, Mr. Brian Stross, is taking a serious interest in our subject and particularly in THE HUMANOIDS. Ivan Sanderson, the noted British zoologist, has long been a student of the UFO problem, and has just written an excellent book[6] on it, but so far as I can recall Mr. Stross is the first *anthropologist* who has let us know of his interest.

Mr. Stross will find in THE HUMANOIDS no fewer than four cases, and possibly five, concerning aggressive hairy black dwarfs that possess a method of flight and that attack people whom they meet at night.

These cases, Nos. 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 in my article, *The Humanoids in Latin America*, relate to creatures of this kind that were all allegedly encountered in Venezuela (a country very close to the traditional home of the *ihk'al*), and all within the span of less than twenty days in November-December of 1954. That was more than thirteen years ago. Mr. Stross's Indian informants are quoted as having told him that there had been a great spate of sightings of *ihk'als* "about twenty years ago or less". and in fact twenty years would take us back to 1947, a most important year in UFO studies.

For the benefit of readers who may not be familiar with them, I quote here from THE HUMANOIDS these five cases[7] which seem to me to be so relevant to Mr. Stross's report:

Caracas, Venezuela (Latin American Humanoids, Case No. 9)

At 2.00 a.m. on November 28, 1954, Gustavo

González and José Ponce were driving a van in the suburbs of the Venezuelan capital when they found the road ahead blocked by a luminous sphere some 8 to 10ft. wide and hovering about 6ft. from the ground. Investigating, González had a fight with a bristly, hairy, dwarf-like creature which, though semingly very light in weight, was so strong that it knocked González a distance of 15ft. with a mere push. With glowing eyes it leapt at him. He drew his knife and he stabbed at it, but the knife glanced off its body as though from steel. Another creature then emerged from the sphere and blinded González with a beam of dazzling light from a small tube.

Meanwhile, José Ponce had seen two more of the creatures emerging from the bushes with their arms full of what seemed to be earth or rocks. With great ease they leapt up into the hovering sphere. All the creatures wore loin-cloths.

Ponce fled to the nearest police station, and González arrived there shortly afterwards, overcome with exhaustion and fright. The police thought at first that both were drunk, but soon found that such was not the case. González had a long deep red scratch on his side, and the two men were given sedatives and placed under medical observation for several days.

One of the doctors treating them admitted later to them that he knew their story was true, as he had been driving back from a night-call at the time and had actually seen the fracas. According to the APRO representative in Caracas, this doctor subsequently went to Washington to discuss the case with American authorities.

Floresta, near Caracas, Venezuela (Case No. 11)

At 6.30 p.m. on December 10, 1954, a Caracas doctor and his father were driving from La Carlota airfield to the Avenida Miranda. They halted in order to watch two little men who were running into a thicket, and shortly afterwards they saw a luminous disc rise from behind the thicket and dart off into the sky at great speed, making a sharp sizzling sound.

Trans-Andean Highway, Carora, Venezuela (Case No. 12)

On the same night, December 10, 1954, two youths, Lorenzo Flores and Jesús Gómez, were hunting near the Trans-Andean Highway between Chico and Cerro de las Tres Torres, when they saw a luminous machine, about 9 or 10ft. wide, hovering about 2ft. from the ground. It was shaped "like one huge washbowl placed upside down on top of another", and flames were shooting from its base.

Four little men about 3ft. high emerged and tried to drag both youths into the craft. Flores struck with his unloaded shotgun at one of them as they were dragging Gómez away. It "felt like striking rock", and the gun broke into two pieces.

It was too dark for them to see the creatures well, but they were immensely strong and had abundant hair all over their bodies.

Gómez fainted with fright, and had amnesia afterwards. Both youths managed to reach a police post, where they were found to be covered with deep scratches and bruises, and their clothing in shreds. Visiting the spot, the police found signs of the struggle. Doctors who examined the youths found them hysterical with fright.

San Carlos del Zulia, Venezuela (Case No. 14)

"On December 16, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a press-conference, said in essence that flying saucers are not from Outer Space[8] and exist only in the imagination of the viewers. On that same night a young man named Jesús Paz, in San Carlos del Zulia, Venezuela, was set upon by small hairy man-like creatures and spent the rest of the night in a hospital having treatment for shock. What had happened to him was not imagined: he had the physical marks to prove it, and he has not forgotten the experience."

—Coral Lorenzen: *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax*, p. 10.

Jesús Paz and his two friends were travelling by car near the Exposition Park of the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture, when Paz asked the driver to stop so that he could go into some nearby bushes to relieve nature. Suddenly his friends heard a piercing scream from him and rushed up to find him unconscious on the ground and to see a small hairy man running away towards a flat, shiny object hovering a few feet from the ground. The machine vanished with a deafening whistle.

The hospital authorities found that Paz had long, deep scratches on his right side and down the spine, as though he had been clawed by a wild beast.

Between Valencia and Caracas, Venezuela (Case No. 15)

Early on the morning of December 19, 1954 (i.e. three days after the case of Jesús Paz just quoted), an eighteen-year-old jockey named José Parra was doing a training run along the highway when he saw six little men pulling boulders from the side of the road and loading them into a disc-shaped craft hovering less than three metres from the ground. He started to retreat, but found himself glued to the spot by a violet-coloured beam from a small device which one of the entities pointed at him. He stood there, helpless, while the creatures leapt aboard the disc, which vanished rapidly in the sky.

Several other people saw the disc or a similar craft between midnight and 3.15 a.m., hovering a few feet off the ground near the Barbula Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Valencia.

Detectives examined the spot indicated by Parra and found a number of footprints which they were unable to identify as either animal or human.

* * *

So much then for the five cases to which I wish to draw attention. Let it be noted, too, however, that UFO literature offers a good many other cases in which small dark or black creatures were allegedly seen, but in none of them, so far as I know, is hairiness or violence mentioned, and I therefore exclude them from consideration as presumably relating to other types of beings than our putative *ihk'al*. (For such non-hairy, small, dark, reportedly non-violent creatures, see for example Cases 6 and 56 of my *Humanoids in Latin America*.)

Mention should also be made of the Persian "abduction attempt" reported by me in FSR, March/April 1967. In the Persian case, it is true, the witness is only reported as having said that the creature seen by him inside the UFO "appeared to be a small man dressed in black clothing and wearing on his head a strange mask shaped like the trunk of an elephant". Nothing

is said about hairiness or skin colour, but as evidently he could not see the creature very well and he *did* think it was bent on *abducting* him, I suggest that we bear it in mind as a possible *ihk'al* case too.

Conclusion

First of all, both folk legends and modern reports from Middle America tell us of the *ihk'al*, a black, hairy humanoid 3ft. high which flies, attacks people whom it encounters alone at night, paralyses people, and, in the modern reports, abducts people using a rocket-like attachment on its back.

Secondly, our "bellicose dwarf" reports of 1954 from Venezuela (a country very close to the source of the *ihk'al* reports) speak specifically of aggressive, hairy, humanoid creatures about 3ft. high that fly and that attack people whom they encounter alone at night, use a violet-coloured or dazzling white beam to blind or to paralyse, and are apparently bent on abduction.

These similarities are so startling that I hope Mr. Brian Stross and other researchers will go to work without delay and follow up these pointers.

I have suggested on many occasions, in articles and in lectures, that if we hope to get to the bottom of the "UFO business" we must first go with a very fine-tooth comb through the whole of our accumulated records in the fields of Anthropology, Archaeology, Religion, Folklore, Psychical Research, Fairy Lore, Witchcraft, Demonology, and so on. Mr. Brian Stross's exceedingly interesting item indicates, in my opinion, that we may be upon the point of making an extraordinary discovery and that the overlapping regions of Anthropology and Folklore may have provided us with a valuable key regarding the nature of, at any rate, one category of the mysterious "UFO entities"!

Another point upon which I have repeatedly dwelt is this: that not all so-called "UFO entities" are *necessarily* extraterrestrial, and that we may yet find, to our enormous surprise, that some at least of them may be creatures that share, and always have shared, this Earth with us; creatures that are totally unknown to most of us; regarding which Science has not a single word to say; but about which our own written and oral traditions, in all our civilisations, speak volumes.

Naturally, some of the alleged craft and the alleged occupants *may* be from Outer Space. It is our task, as investigators, to ascertain the truth of this, as well as of the enormous and most important question of all, namely, are some of them true human beings, who wish us well, and are perhaps our kith and kin? The *ihk'al*, whatever he may be, does not look like a possible candidate for this category at any rate!

NOTES

See, for general background, *The Popul Vuh, the Sacred Book of the Ancient Quiche Maya*, by Adrián Recinos (in Spanish), Mexico City, 1947 English translation by Delia Goetz and Sylvanus G. Morley, Hodge, London, 1951.

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6 Sanderson, Ivan T., F.Z.S. *Uninvited Visitors*, Cowles Educational Corpn., New York, 1967.
7 All five of these cases appeared originally in Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax*, William-Frederick Press, New York, 1962.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

8 Yes, and how true the first part of this statement may be! Can one really believe—as so many would have us do—that when President Eisenhower made this statement he knew absolutely nothing whatsoever about the subject? We would do well to ponder the numerous occasions on which governments or official agencies have declared with such emphasis that "there is NO evidence of objects or of craft arriving here *from Outer Space*".

OCCUPANTS OBSERVED AT NORCO

A Californian Case of 1955

BY DONALD B. HANLON

IN the issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for September/October 1967, Gordon Creighton presented the assembled facts on an occupant case, which is now thirteen years old, in his excellent article *The Extraordinary Happenings at Casa Blanca*. I was particularly gratified with the re-emphasis of this incident, as also with the current investigation by Dr. Philip Seff of APRO, for I had felt that it had been too long overlooked by most researchers. It will be especially interesting to hear what the principal witnesses have to say about their alleged experience now that they have matured into adults.

Since the California area has again been brought into focus by Mr. Creighton's article, I feel that the following incident, which is likewise of early vintage and which has received little or no publicity, will be of particular interest.

I have received the details of this occurrence from one of the witnesses through a series of letters. I had first heard of it while gathering information on the Casa Blanca incident.

The witnesses, who shall be referred to as Mrs. J. and her daughter, prefer to remain anonymous.[1] They did not report their sighting at the time it happened due to fear of public ridicule, and to complete disenchantment with the official Air Force investigative methods at that time (ca. 1954).

Although the details of the occurrence remain vividly impressed upon their memories, the precise date is forgotten. Best reckoning would place it in the late Spring of 1954.

Mrs. J., her husband, and her five-year-old daughter had just sat down for their mid-day meal in their home, a one-storey cottage on the outskirts of Norco, Cali-

fornia. They gradually became aware of a very odd-sounding metallic drone which increased in volume as they listened. As the noise grew louder, the witness's husband suggested that she go outside and investigate as whatever was causing it seemed to be approaching the house. The husband was suffering from an arthritic ailment which had left his neck and spine immobile, and this disability would have made it most difficult for he himself to investigate.

Mrs. J. was joined by her daughter at the back door of their cottage. The visibility was rather poor, due to the haze left by an early morning fog. Almost immediately their attention was drawn to an object which was then just passing over their heads. The object was moving slowly (Mrs. J. estimates not more than 5 m.p.h.) and was apparently quite low, as its edges were clearly defined despite the haze. The object itself appeared to be quite solid.

The object moved to a position above a tree in the backyard. The tree stands about 15ft. from the cottage. The object was aluminium coloured and appeared to be about 20ft. in length and 10ft. across at its widest part: its shape, so it seemed to Mrs. J., resembled that of a rowing boat! The object came to a complete stop just above the tree, and the metallic droning sound subsided to an almost inaudible hum. Although the object had absolutely no protrusions such as wings or propellers, it did have a transparent domed-shaped affair on top. Inside this dome the witnesses could see five "men" sitting in a semi-circular position facing them.

Mrs. J. describes these "men" as wearing neutral-coloured uniforms, having dark eyes and hair, rather long faces and dull olive-coloured skins. She also states that their features may have been distorted since she was viewing them through the dome of the object. All of them wore helmets.

At this point the "men" appeared to lean forward and stare most intently at the witnesses. One of the "men" in particular seemed to "gaze right through" them and gave Mrs. J. the distinct impression of a "cold scientific mind, dissecting me bit by bit". The reader will note the obvious parallels between this and the experience of Betty and Barney Hill which, according to their story, occurred seven years after Mrs. J.'s encounter.

"They definitely stared," says Mrs. J: "One in particular looked right into my eyes." She is also at a loss to explain the apparent interest in herself and her little daughter. "I wish I had had the presence of mind to have talked to them, but I stood there gaping, completely flabbergasted."

Mrs. J. estimates that the "men" must have stared at them for a full minute before leaning back in their seats. The droning noise then grew louder and the object began to move off towards the north-east, disappearing into the haze at an estimated 35 m.p.h.

In a very excited state, Mrs. J. and her daughter ran into the cottage to tell Mr. J. what they had seen. Mr. J. estimated that they had watched the object in their back yard for almost four minutes. He had noticed the fact that the droning noise had subsided almost completely at one point, and had also been able to tell in which direction it had left.

Realising that the details of her sighting were so fantastic that no one would believe it without verification, and feeling sure that the object must have been seen or heard by others, Mrs. J. waited hopefully to see a report in the newspaper. However, nothing came of it, and Mrs. J. rationalises that other witnesses were also waiting for someone to come forward. She related her story only to a few close friends and relatives. Mrs. J.'s daughter, who is now married and has a child of her own, agrees with her mother's present recollection of the incident, with the slight exception that she seems to recall that the object was longer and slimmer than in her mother's estimate. Neither of the witnesses seem to feel that the object they saw was of extraterrestrial origin. "There was something quite earthly about it", Mrs. J. states. She also feels that the object itself had the appearance of something "old", although she concedes that she may have been mistaken in this impression.

It will be noted that this incident bears more than a passing resemblance to the observation of Mrs. Jennie Roestenberg and her two children in England later that year.[2] A similar case also occurred in Northern California on October 4, 1965. At Rio Vista Mrs. Betty Valine and her twelve-year-old son Robbie watched "a large *domed* object slowly descend towards earth". They claimed to have seen "three people" inside the object.[3] The witnesses did not see the object touch down.

NOTES

1 Name and address supplied to FSR for the record.
2 Bowen, C. *Few and Far Between*, THE HUMANOIDS, October/November 1966, p. 4.
3 NICAP Reporter (Gribble), December 1965.

BUFORA NEWS

NATIONAL SKY-WATCH DAY is being held this year on Saturday/Sunday 15/16th June, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Local organisers and individuals willing to take part should send a S.A.E. to the chief organiser: Edgar Hatvany, 19 Richmond Avenue, East Bedfont, Middx. Radio hams can help, and Roy Winstanley will be in charge of the sky-watch day radio communications network.

BRISTOL CONFERENCE (N.B. date amended). The BRITISH FLYING SAUCER BUREAU will be acting as hosts. It will now be held at a well-appointed hotel in Bristol on Saturday, July 20th, 1968, from 2 to 10 p.m. Admission by ticket only. For details send a S.A.E. to: Graham Knewstub, BFSB, 27 Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol.

For details of the BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, its London lectures and BUFORA JOURNAL, send a 9" x 4" S.A.E. to: Miss C. Henning (FSR), 99 Mayday Gardens, London, S.E.3.

MORE UNUSUAL HUMANOIDS

BY CHARLES BOWEN

PERUSAL of reports which have been received during the last few years has shown that there is a growing tendency among the public, and in the press, to link stories of UWOs,[1] or ghostly human-like figures, with UFOs.

Among three such reports which have come to our notice during the past few months, I have found but one case in which there was a mention of an unusual "craft" having been observed and indirectly associated with the "little man"—and that in the most ludicrous circumstances, as will be seen.

Before taking a look at our three new cases, a word first about "ghostly" incidents of recent interest. The Winterfold apparition, reported by a young couple after an alarming journey through the wooded hills of South-Western Surrey,[2] was described in such a way that some features of the report could be linked with certain features already observed in a number of "classic" cases of UFOs.

Whitmore Common phenomenon

Hard on the heels of Winterfold came another Surrey "spectral"-type sighting claim. This was told to me by the reporter of a local journal who investigated the claim.[3] As at Winterfold, this incident was also followed up by a local Surrey group who were quick to sense a possible flying saucer connection.[4]

One moonlight night (the day was not given, but it is presumed that it was some time either in January or February) a young man, whose first name is Peter, was sitting with his girl friend in his mini-van which was parked on Whitmore Common. This area of bush and heather scrubland lies between Woking and Guildford, and the car was standing in a clearing close to Britain's Pond, not far from the Portsmouth railway line.

Peter claimed that he had an "uneasy" feeling, looked up and saw a shadow behind nearby trees. He opened the window to listen, and, suspecting a Peeping Tom, started to get out of the car. At that instance, he says, the "shadow" moved rapidly, and without apparent steps, to take up a new position about 20ft. from the van. The witness stated that he became frightened because he realised that the thing was too low, squat and square to be a man. This apparition, which had moved with a gliding motion, was between 4 and 5ft. high, and was soundless: it appeared to have no legs, and "blocked out the light" (presumably moonlight) from behind the bush. Peter drove off quickly.

It seems that the couple returned to the site some two weeks later. When Peter opened the window to let in fresh air, he says an unpleasantly pungent smell, "as of seaweed rotting in the hot sun", assailed their nostrils. Although they saw or heard nothing, he told the reporter that they drove away in some alarm.

Perhaps somewhere along the line there is an overlap between the ages-old topic of psychic phenomena and the topic of UFOs—also an ages-old phenomenon, but that is a fact only recently recognised. My colleagues and I do not look askance at such a suggestion: indeed we already have well-known psychic researchers working for us along certain lines of enquiry. The Paraphysical Laboratory,[5] publishers of *The Journal of Paraphysics*, are also keenly interested in UFO reports.

I am not stating that there *is* a connection between UFOs and psychic phenomena, but merely that this is one of the avenues of enquiry that should be explored. Let us not forget the association of poltergeist-type phenomena with the first Warminster cases in 1965.[6]

A "luminous man ?

Here are the details—as far as I have them at present, and I have included such reports, in spite of the paucity of detail, not so much as facts, but rather as indicative of the types of experience which are worrying ordinary folk—of another case reported to me in a private letter by a BUFORA member who, at my request, is making further enquiries. This is yet another instance where the witness wishes his name to remain unmentioned, which is understandable, for a claim to have seen a "ghost" seems to attract even more ridicule than a claim to have seen a UFO. I am assured that this particular witness is neither interested in, nor does he read, UFO literature.

The young man was returning home, after dark, along a lane on the outskirts of Birmingham after an evening spent with his girl friend. He had not partaken of anything alcoholic, and was in a perfectly happy and normal state of mind. Suddenly he looked around to find that he was being followed by something he describes quite adamantly as "a luminous man emitting a green glow from head to foot". His immediate reaction was of disbelief, fear and then panic: he ran to his home, which was nearby, as fast as he could. When he arrived there in a sweat of fear, his mother would not believe his story, but she did in fact peer out of the window and admits seeing a green glow coming from behind nearby bushes. In spite of this, she still found her son's story incredible.

The witness stated that the figure was that of a man of normal size. So in this instance we are told of a "something" with all the spectral qualities of the ghostly interloper at Winterfold, which also possessed a shape a little more solid-looking and humanoid in character. Was this something akin to the little blue "man" reported by the schoolchildren of Studham?[7]

Peruvian "visitor" leaves luminous trail

The luminous green figure of Birmingham is a convenient link with the first of the three new humanoid, or UWO, cases I mentioned at the outset.

Events in Chaclacayo, a residential town some 33 kilometres from Lima, the capital of Peru, on the evening of July 5, 1966, left the inhabitants of the district in a state of alarm. We learned of the case from newspapers

from two continents.[8] It seems that a very small, strange being, no more than 150 cms. in height, was seen by a woman and some young people as it walked quietly along the streets, leaving in its wake a luminous track! The witnesses stated that the creature *was an extraterrestrial*, although how they knew remains a mystery. Some children fled at the sight of the creature, while others, who stayed and watched, said it displayed curiosity and appeared to want to talk with them.

The strange "visitor" then moved swiftly to another part of the town where it was seen by an 18-year-old señorita named Antonieta Chirinos, who was accompanied by two children whom it approached and tried to observe closely.

This unusual walking object was also seen by a boy, Gonzalo Villavicencio, who, from the balcony of his house, shouted: "Hi, what do you want?" At this sudden noise the creature moved off quickly and disappeared from sight.

My friend René Fouéré recently pointed out in *Phénomènes Spatiaux* that the trail could have been an ionisation effect, and that in the Middle Ages the witnesses would have said the being was an angel.

Potato-headed oddities

My next case, reported from France, comes to us by way of a Brazilian newspaper.[9] On the evening of July 18, 1967, a 15-year-old boy, Joelle Ravier, who lives near Doubs, claimed that he met four mysterious beings near a wood. He and three other boys were walking near the wood when one of the boys became separated from the rest of the party, only to come running after them, crying and terrified. Joelle said that he himself then went forward through the bushes and beheld, at a spot known as Les Gravières, "four small beings of approximately 1 metre in height, black, with heads shaped like potatoes and with inflated bellies." He added that seeing that they were observed, these weird creatures fled, "flying away at an incredible speed, after speaking to each other in a musical language."

The colour attributed to these reported creatures is somewhat puzzling. If it had not been for this, one might be tempted to ask whether or not these particular types were like those allegedly encountered by M. Masse at Valensole on July 1, 1965. In his case, the little chaps were described as having pumpkin (courgourdo) heads.[10]

There was no mention of UFOs in the Doubs story, but once again there was a suggestion that the "beings" were of extraterrestrial origin, for the headline announced in no uncertain fashion: "Beings from another planet land in France."

Are they "crackers" in Caracas?

My final account is gleaned from yet another Brazilian newspaper,[11] which itself quoted from the Caracas, Venezuela, evening newspaper *El Mundo* of August 19, 1967. This is the story of a doctor who claims that he was visited in his Caracas surgery by "a being from another planet". Immediately after this unusual consultation the doctor had a heart attack.

The doctor later stated that he had a conversation with the strange visitor about the way of life and technology on his home planet. Apparently the being was of small stature, and was dressed in something like evening (smoking) dress. He had a misshapen bald head, no mouth, and two enormous eyebrows.

I can only presume that the description "no mouth" means that the creature did not possess muscular lips like humans, but more likely a slit-mouthed variety like that reported to have been seen on the Valensole creatures, or that possessed by A. Villas Boas' lady friend.[14]

Returning to the Caracas report, we read that the police were very interested in the case and searched for any possible marks that the visitor may have left.

I will close with the remainder of the story, as given by the newspaper:

"The doctor, whose name we are withholding at his request, is one of the most influential professional men in the medical field in this city of Caracas and, soon after his conversation with the small being from another world, he suffered a heart attack and had to be placed in a special clinic. The account given to us by the doctor and the account given to us by a youth living in the Avenida de Avila, in the Eduvigis Building (suburb of San Bernardino) lead us to suppose that they both relate to the same interplanetary visitor. Both the doctor and the youth, whose name is Pedro Riera, agree that the being was of small stature, with a large head, agile movements, and dressed in a strange suit which seemed to be made of a flexible cloth of metallic appearance.

"In addition to the doctor and the twenty-year-old youth (employee of a publicity agency), both of whom affirm that they saw this same small interplanetary being on August 7, in the same part of the city but at different times of the day, there are four more people, including a policeman, who maintain that on the same day in question *they too saw the space-ship* (my italics—C.B.) used by the extraterrestrial visitor.

"Those who claim to have seen the little man are: Carmen Ortega, third-year student at a secondary school, Andrés Pascuai and José Pascuai, and a policeman who does not wish his name to be revealed. These people all informed us that the strange object was parked in front of the 'Eduvigis' Building on the Avenida Avila in San Bernardino for several hours on the morning of August 7.

"An occupant of the 'Eduvigis' Building, Pedro Riera, says that he saw the man inside his apartment and tried to grab him by his clothing, but the little man escaped through the window and went off towards the space-ship which was parked on the left-hand side of the Avenida Avila. It was on precisely that same day that the doctor affirms he was visited by a strange man whose description tallies with that given by Pedro Riera.

"The doctor told us that the strange visitor said he was from another planet and, expressing himself in perfect Spanish, described the advances of Science and Technology in his world and the eradication of those diseases which still afflict Terrestrials. He also spoke of the causes of war and of bellicose behaviour in general and, after declaring that such things had disappeared from his world, stated that his mission to Earth was to take a number of scientists from here to his world with the object of bringing them up-to-date with the advances made in his world, for the sake of the progress of the

totality of living beings possessed of the power of reasoning.

"The strange being pointed out to the doctor that sending Earthmen to his world would mean running into the two difficulties as to weight and the conquering of Space, and, to lend force to his argument, he said that an Earthman would find his weight and his strength tripled on his (the entity's) planet and this would constitute a serious problem. As regards the physical and mental problems involved, he said that, according to the studies made, Earthmen would not suffer in any way through the change."

* * *

Well, there you have it. The idea of a "space ship" being parked at the side of the street, with nobody being over-concerned or even reporting its departure, seems so ludicrous that one is forced to ask: "Are they 'crackers' in Caracas?" Maybe more will eventually be learned of this alleged incident; who knows, we may even have to consider the possibility that the "space ship" image was only a projection from somewhere, or something, although very real in the eyes of the beholders.

Again, it should be noted that this is yet another case of an entity being reported *inside* a house. We should not forget Miss Mary Hyre's experience[13] with the little man in his shirt sleeves who came in out of the bitter cold at her Athens, Ohio, newspaper office.

NOTES

1 UWO: Unidentified Walking Object.
2 Bowen, C.: *The Spectre of Winterfold*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 1, January/February 1968.
3 This incident was reported in *The Woking Review* for March 1968. It should be noted that the headline was *Creature from Space?* although there was nothing in the report to suggest such a thing.
4 Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (SIGAP). Secretary: Richard Beet, 195 Epsom Road, Guildford, Surrey.
5 The Paraphysical Laboratory, Downton, Wiltshire.
6 *The Warminster Phenomenon*, FSR, Vol. 11, No. 4, July/August 1965.
7 Winder, R. H. B.: *The Little Blue Man of Studham Common*, FSR, Vol. 13, No. 4, July/August 1967.
8 *El Noticiero Universal*, Barcelona, of July 8, 1966. Also *La Razón* of Buenos Aires of the same date, which quoted as its source *El Comercio* of Lima. (Courtesy of O. A. Galíndez. Translation of this and other items by Gordon Creighton.)
9 *Noticias Populares* of São Paulo, of July 20, 1967. (Courtesy of Nigel Rimes.)
10 Michel, A.: *The Valensole Affair*, FSR, Vol. 11, No. 6, November/December, 1965.
11 *O Estado de São Paulo* of August 20, 1967. (Courtesy N. Rimes.)
12 *Even More Amazing. . . .* Part III. A. V. Boas' deposition to Dr. Olavo Fontes, presented by Gordon Creighton. FSR, Vol. 12, No. 6, November/December 1966.
13 Keel, J. A.: *Development of a Great Wave*, FSR, Vol. 13, No. 2, March/April 1967.

Unidentified Flying Objects: Greatest Scientific Problem of our Times, (see FSR, March/April 1968, p.32) is now published by **UFO Research Institute,** Suite 311, 508 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219, USA. Price $1.00

PERSONAL COLUMN

(5/- for first two lines; 4/- for each additional line, or part)

WELSH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION needs a push to the launching pad. We need every help, and hope all readers of FSR who live in Wales will get in touch with us. S.A.E. with enquiry to: 28 Clynmawr, Abertillery, Monmouthshire.

I HAVE BEEN "MONITORED," and, if other persons who have suffered the same experience would care to correspond, please write to: Clinton Curtis Williams Jr., P.O. Box 1063/Fort Shelby, Detroit, Michigan, 48231, U.S.A.

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MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

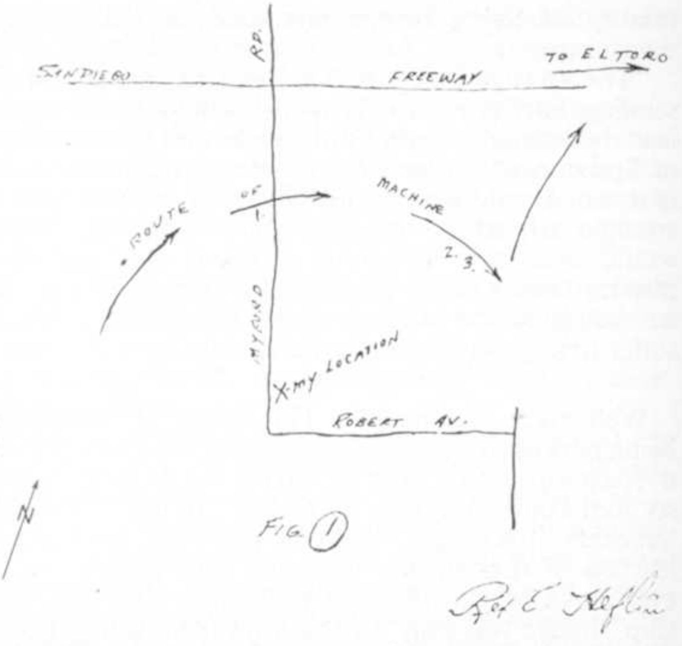
Queries on the Heflin Photographs

Sir,—I believe that the points raised in your January/February issue by Mr. Gibbs-Smith have a natural explanation, based on what would be expected under the circumstances of the observation. These concern the shadows from the telegraph poles, and reflections from the rim of the UFO.

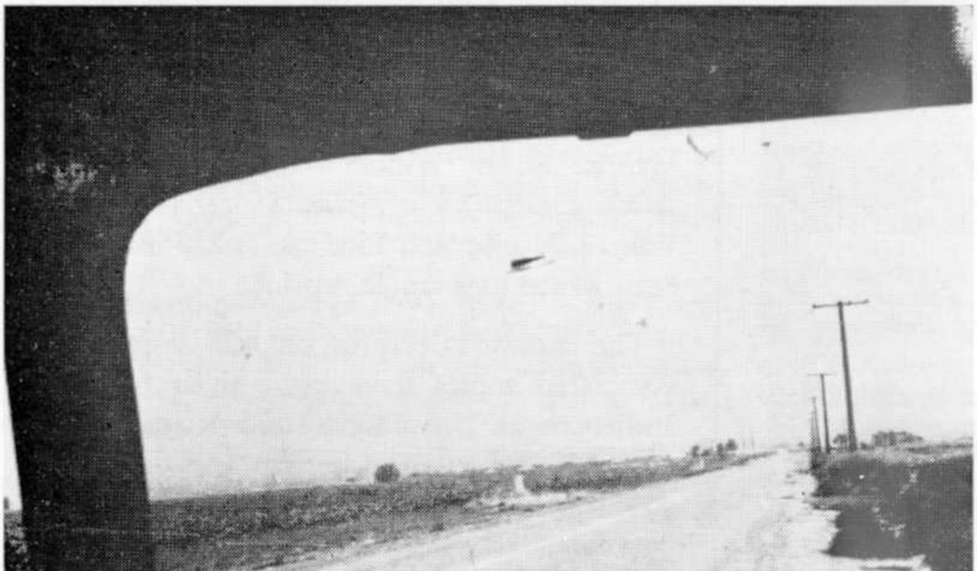
Orange County is situated approximately 34° N. lat.: the date was August 3: the time 1130 a.m., and the weather conditions were sunshine filtering through haze. On June 24 (Summer Solstice) the Sun would have been directly overhead at a point 23½° N. lat. (Tropic of Cancer) at midday. During the weeks directly before and after the Solstice the position of the Sun at midday does not greatly vary, as this is the "top of the curve" of its apparent movement north and south. The observation was rather over five weeks after the Solstice and the Sun would have declined south by only a few degrees. Orange County is about 10° north of the Tropic, and this would add a corresponding number of degrees to the south declination. The observation was 30 minutes before midday, so there was also a declination of some 7½° east. Thus the Sun at the time that the photographs are said to have been taken would have been about 15° south and 7° east of the zenith, and when seen through haze would have produced a general glare from a position only slightly removed from overhead.

Under these circumstances poles and similar objects would cast only very short blurred shadows at their feet, and the general effect of the landscape would be almost shadowless. This is in fact the impression given by the three photographs of the scene. Further, with a source of diffused light near the zenith, any convex curved object in a near-horizontal position gives reflections from its rim when seen from all sides, and upward-facing surfaces seem to be evenly illuminated. This can be tested by holding a saucepan-lid in a room with overhead even fluorescent lighting, which simulates the conditions described. Here again the photographs appear to show exactly what would be expected, and these two aspects would seem to support their being genuine.

A. Lloyd-Taylor, Brighton, Sussex.
January 27, 1968.



Rex Heflin's own sketch of the location of his sighting



Full print of the first Heflin photograph

Ralph Rankow replies

Sir,—The January/February 1968 issue containing my Heflin story is now to hand and I shall now try to answer your note which followed the story. The sunlight was coming only *slightly* from the right. At 1130 a.m. in August, the sun is close to being overhead. I will enclose a print of photo No. 1 showing the full, uncropped area. While this print is not of as good quality as those I sent you for the article, you can make out the shadow of the nearest pole (which is out of the picture area). The sun seems to be off to the right slightly, and slightly to the rear of the truck. The shadow of the cross-piece at the top of the poles falls on the shoulder of the road.

It is evident that if the UFO were a small model, up close to the truck as claimed by the Air Force, its shadow would be apparent on the road. Since there is no shadow on the road, the UFO must have been further away from the camera, so that its shadow falls undetected in the field. This would require that the object was quite a bit larger than "a small model" and adds credence to Heflin's size estimate of 30ft. diameter and 8ft. thick.

I enclose a sketch made by Rex Heflin which shows direction into

which the UFO went and the path it followed.

Ralph Rankow, New York 1, U.S.A.
February 1, 1968.

More Heflin Queries

Sir,—I am sorry to seem so dog-in-the-manger about the Heflin photographs, but these matters of detail are vital.

Not only has my point No. 8 not been answered at all, including the question of the UFO going *north* with the sun on its right-hand side (as we look at it), but there is something odd about that rear mirror seen in Photos 2 and 3. Its edges seem to be in the same perspective in Photo 3 as in Photo 2, yet what we see in it is quite different, but there may be a simple optical explanation of this.

But what of that telegraph pole shown in Photo 2? I should like a categorical statement that the row of telegraph posts seen in Photo 1 included *one single pole with its cross-bar much lower on the pole* than is the case of those in the row seen in Photo 1.

Finally, Mr. Rankow says—in his caption—that "after Heflin, so he stated, had driven as near as possible to the smoke-like ring of vapour which remained where UFO was last seen."

Now the UFO is said to have been going off to the *right*. How then did Heflin drive over those fields? And how, in Photo 4, does a telegraph wire appear in the photograph? Incidentally, I should feel happier about that smoke-ring if I saw the negative: I do not at all like the quality of black in the ring itself, and the surrounding darkness in the sky which lies behind it: if that darkness is blue sky, it is even more interesting: if it is smoke it is still interesting.

Charles Gibbs-Smith, South Kensington.
March 4, 1968.

[*Mr. Gibbs-Smith was not aware of the contents of Mr. Rankow's reply when he sent in this letter. I should add that the captions were composed by myself based on the captions in* FATE *magazine and Mr. Rankow's text. We hope the author will have more to say on this point.*—EDITOR.]

UFO and Poltergeist phenomena

Sir,—With the ever-frequent references to Psychical Phenomena and UFO landings, etc., perhaps the enclosed items[1] connected with poltergeistic literature might interest you.

Personally speaking, I do not think the three cases (occurring during the same year—1842) and extracted from 375 others, are necessarily poltergeistic at source.

The May and July reports indicate that the clothing hanging on lines was *outside* the houses concerned. I know from my own, fairly wide, psychic reading that this does not exclude poltergeistic phenomena. The Mauritius case—in 1937—featured a bungalow that was literally bombarded by stones *inside* and *outside* its walls. There are, however, a "loud detonation", the line "shot upward" and "vanished" and the southward wind that couldn't prevent the washing heading northward to consider. All this doesn't quite ring like poltergeist material, but, of course, I could be wrong. I haven't followed up these references—were UFOs involved?

The third case—the two little girls gathering leaves—were seemingly in a typical "shower" of poltergeistic stones. This was outdoors, but the strong "current" and the ensuing "vortex" *could* indicate the presence of our UFO friend.

One last point—you will note in this last case the reference to "the uncommon slowness of their (stones) motion". This is one of the chief pointers to poltergeist phenomena—the object, which can be smashed into small pieces, yet lazily following a looping or curving flight before impact.

Your theory of occupants being seen by witnesses of a UFO landing, within seconds of descent,[2] was coupled with the defensive *Fear* screen. This could well be the case! I should like to add here the similarity to the poltergeist object being seen *on its course*, but never at its place of "take-off". There is a connection here, with the rapid appearance of your "men" seemingly from nowhere—anyway, it's an interesting "*teaser*".

Ernest W. Shepherd, 303 Victoria Drive, Eastbourne, Sussex.
January 28, 1968.

NOTES

[1] *The Story of the Poltergeist down the Centuries;* Carrington & Fodor, 1953; Rider & Co.

Page 34

(1842) Note in *The Times*, London, July 5

At Cupar, Scotland, clothes hanging on a line shot upwards suddenly: a loud detonation was noted simultaneously. Some of the clothes fell to the ground, others vanished. *Unexplained.*

(1842) See *Annals of Electricity*, 6, 499

In Liverpool, 11th May, clothes hanging on a line suddenly "shot upward". They moved away slowly. Smoke from chimneys indicated that above ground there was a southward wind, but the clothes moved away northward.

Page 35

(1842) Noted in *The Times*, London (13/1/1843), quoted from the *Courier de l'Isére*. December 1842

"Stones fell on two little girls gathering leaves. They returned home, told their parents who returned with them. The stones still fell—the uncommon slowness of their motion being noted at the time. A strong 'current' was also noted, into which the children were dragged, as if into a vortex." *Never explained.*

[2] Bowen, C.: *Few and far between*, FSR special issue, THE HUMANOÏDS.

Tracking UFOs

Sir,—The article *Photographic Surveillance for UFOs* by W. T. Powers in the January/February 1968 issue gives an impression that we shall never have enough funds to track the UFOs.

However, unless someone else has already done so, I would like to suggest a possible solution.

(1) That a co-ordination centre be set up. Firstly staffed by a volunteer in his spare time. That readers with magnetic field detectors have special forms to advise the co-ordinator by post of any signals received, locations and times. The co-ordinator then prepares statistics from information received.

(2) That magnetic field detectors be modified so that on "firing" a detector stops an electric clock by a relay. Detectors could then be left on all the time unattended. Some detector owners might be able to afford a pen-graph output or a CRO display which would show even the weakest input signals. There are all kinds of other possibilities, some of them quite inexpensive.

(3) The co-ordination centre is now enlarged. It will be necessary to employ a full-time co-ordinator. Peripheral Detectors are fitted with G.P.O. lines direct to a display unit at co-ordination centre. Where this is too expensive other signals will be communicated by ordinary telephone. It may be necessary to employ telephone operators at centre.

(4) At co-ordination centre will be a short list of persons with cameras on standby who could be notified immediately of an alert by telephone.

This is very condensed, but your imagination will no doubt fill in the blanks. Even if too expensive for us amateurs, it is cheaper than a permanent 24-hour camera surveillance.

If enough of us were keen we could afford a small amount each month to cover the wages of the co-ordinator.

L. Taylor, 22 Woolmer Road, Nottingham, NG2 2FB.

That July 17/18, 1967, object

Sir,—With reference to your article *A Visit to Valensole* in FSR, Vol. 14, No. 1, I see that Aimé Michel makes reference to the night of July 17/18 and states that M. Masse's (alleged) premonition would have an altogether special interest should it ultimately be established that the object was indeed a *Vostok*. In Note No. 4 he goes on: "The night on which, so some people say, a Vostok satellite disintegrated in the atmosphere over Western Europe, which is indeed possible. . . ."

The facts concerning this are as follows:

The Radio and Space Research Station at Slough in their Observing Notes of July 21, 1967, issued a report that the decaying object seen over France and by thousands of people of

nine countries on Tuesday, July 18, was in fact Cosmos 169 [launch 1967—69(B)]. Duration of the transit was 50 seconds and the object(s) appeared as bright as the moon.

In their regular decay lists the dates are as follows:

1967—69A	...	July 17
1967—69B	...	July 18
1967—69C	...	July 18

I do not at this stage understand what Aimé Michel means by "special interest", but trust that above information will be of assistance.

The article was an excellent follow-up account of the July 1, 1965, incident and particularly intriguing was the change in demeanour of M. Masse. You will have no doubt appreciated the significance of the pencil-like instrument, mentioned also in other cases. A. Michel's suggestion that this was a form of immobilisation by hypnotic suggestion supports the proposition that the whole thing was premeditated, with great similarity to your *Fantasy or Truth* in FSR, Vol. 13, No. 4. A little too arranged?

One last point. The "knowing" of M. Masse is a "knowing beyond doubt", which I can understand.

J. D. Llewellyn, 63 Masons Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

February 16, 1968.

The Australian motorcyclist's claim

Sir,—I would like to comment upon the article in FSR, March/April 1968, by Joanna Hugill entitled "On the road from Sydney to Melbourne".

The anonymous witness of the UFO and its beckoning occupant makes a remarkable claim on our credulity. I have ridden many motorcycles from 125 c.c. to 600 c.c. and touched speeds of remarkable note: but the claim of "Mr. Hunter" that he travelled 100 to 120 m.p.h., fear in his mind, across country and pursued by the UFO requires study. I fully appreciate that his machine would have been capable of the speed; I also appreciate that fear *might* not hinder mental processes, but this I doubt. A heavy bike flat out at 120 m.p.h. needs considerable control and that means absolute mental concentration, especially when taking corners or if the road is rutted or pitted in any way.

It is not my custom to throw doubt upon the veracity of any man who claims to have seen a UFO, without good evidence, but even if Mr. Hunter's claim does not become untenable in view of his reported speed, it nevertheless requires re-evaluation.

To make his escape at such speed is astounding in itself: that he could continue to maintain speed when the confounded UFO was pacing him, and at the same time avert his gaze to inspect the pursuing craft, is asking the reader to believe a lot. Might I suggest that his opinion of his speed is an estimate of what it "seemed" because of his state of mind. Unless this is the case, the rest of his evidence merits rejection.

Peter R. C. Newman (ex-Chairman, Leicester Society for UFO Research), Berkhamsted, Herts.

March 26, 1968.

New Group

Sir,—I have lately formed a UFO research group in Dagenham. At present we have only a handful of people to help us, but we already have a large quantity of sensitive equipment, such as cine-cameras, binoculars, a 4in. reflecting telescope, two magnetic-flux detectors and, to try and establish communication, a special transmitter which uses visible light wavelengths on an extremely fine powerful beam, which I recently constructed.

If we can get enough support we intend to set up temporary sighting units at weekends along a big UFO-infested ley which runs quite near Dagenham (I am referring to the base-line of the Philip Hesleton Orthotenic Network).

We also require for analysis sightings from people living in or around Dagenham.

B. Richard Barton (Dagenham Organisation for Research into Strange or Unexplainable Phenomena), 11a Hamden Crescent, Beacontree Heath, Dagenham, Essex.

The Keel "phases"

Sir,—In Volume 14, No. 1, January/February 1968, an article by Mr. John A. Keel was published concerning a contact case in Boardman, Ohio. Several comments made by Mr. Keel may appear ambiguous. However, I think we may make certain conclusions from these comments.

Concerning the strange "phases": Mr. Keel has, as American investigators know, been investigating a number of strange contact claims. These claims are made by people who may be considered normal, and they are never publicised. Obviously, these phases mentioned by Mr. Keel refer to the patterns he has detected in these stories.

The "baby-crying" sound phenomena is well known to those interested in the stories of haunted houses. Here we have a connection with UFOs. Much, in my opinion, may be made from this fact.

As to the "odd March pattern", clearly this has something to do with a correlation among contactees pertaining to their birth dates—or so it would appear in this context.

Clearly, Mr. Keel believes he has made several important discoveries—and I would suggest that the stories of M. Maurice Masse, Mr. Angus Brooks and the "Spectre of Winterfold", also in that issue, should be considered anew in the light of them.

Richard S. Hack (serving in Vietnam).

March 18, 1968.

The DePolo contact claim

Sir,—I am writing with reference to an article in the January/February 1968 issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. The article was written by John Keel and covered the Reverend DePolo incident. I was very pleased to see the DePolo story in your publication as the incident is generally not well known.

However, I should like to clear up some discrepancies in Mr. Keel's account.

Reverend DePolo was visited by representatives of the Goodyear UFO Society and not scientists from the B. F. Goodrich Company. We like to think our approach to the UFO subject is scientific. Perhaps this attitude was projected and caused some confusion.

The night of August 15, 1967, Rev. DePolo was guest speaker at our monthly meeting. We found him convincing and his story interesting and many questions were asked of him. However, scientists were few in number at this meeting unless, of course, Mr. Keel has reference to those scientifically researching the UFO phenomena.

At the time of Rev. DePolo's experience and subsequent interview I was vacationing with my family, therefore I was not present at the time our group contacted Rev. DePolo, although that task falls in my area of responsibility.

I cannot be sure what our representatives projected to Rev. DePolo, although it is probably true he was told not to reveal the contents of the fourth message. I'm sorry to say one member of this investigating team delights in "the cloak and dagger".

It is true that we have had some other happenings in this area of a similar nature to that of Rev. DePolo's and I suppose this was projected to the good man in an effort to put him at ease and make him more lucid.

In closing, I cannot possibly imagine Rev. DePolo confusing the Goodyear UFO Society and their meeting with a group of Goodrich scientists. Our meetings are held in Goodyear Hall opposite Goodyear Plant One in Akron—the Goodyear name is all over the place. This must be a case of misconstrued statements.

Virgil E. Tarlton, The Goodyear UFO Society, P.O. Box 9063, Akron, Ohio, 44305, U.S.A.

March 8, 1968.

(*Continued on Page iii of cover*)

A NEW APPROACH TO UFO WITNESSES

By John A. Keel

THE CELEBRATED "scientific method" has proven to be totally unworkable in the case of UFO interpretation. After twenty years of application we have produced nothing more than a rather meaningless *census* of unidentified objects. Should we go through the expense of feeding this mass of fragmentary data into a computer we would come up with an equally meaningless mass of statistical data based upon past performance.

We know, for example, that in thousands of reports the objects have shown an ability to change colour, therefore it is totally irrelevant that 400 green objects, 600 yellow objects, 280 red objects, and so on, were sighted in any particular month or year. The green objects could have been red in other phases. Nor is the altitude of the objects important. Since we are dealing with *flying* objects, they could have been at 500ft. (and coloured green) at one observation point, and could have been at 6,000ft. (and coloured orange) at another point five miles away. Their speed is just as variable and just as meaningless to the overall picture. In essence, all sighting data is worthless once it has been reasonably established that an object did exist and was seen.

To continue to collect such data at random is obviously a futile and unproductive task. From 1947-52 the U.S. Air Force made a sincere and expensive effort to computerise such data. The results were published openly in PROJECT BLUE BOOK REPORT No. 14, issued in 1955. In January 1953, the notorious Robertson Panel, sponsored by the C.I.A., reviewed the USAF's studies and brought the real investigation to a halt. The panellists realised immediately the futility of endless surveys and the worthlessness of random sighting data. In their final report (I have a complete copy of this "Top Secret" document) they advised: ". . . the cost in technical manpower effort required to follow up and explain every one of the thousand or more reports received through channels each year could not be justified. It was felt that there will always be sightings, for which complete data is lacking, that can only be explained with disproportionate effort and with a long time delay, if at all. The long delay in explaining a sighting tends to eliminate any intelligence value."

In short, studying and "explaining" individual sightings was not worth the cost and effort involved. The UFO buffs, however, never did realise this basic fact. They continued to run after lights in the sky and amassed thousands upon thousands of sightings by reputable witnesses. They thought they were proving their case (that UFOs are extraterrestrial) when actually they were merely wasting twenty years.

One substantial sighting proves that the UFOs exist: 10,000 substantial sightings don't prove it any further. After arriving at that basic conclusion (that the UFOs are real), the next logical step is to determine precisely what they are doing here.

It is improbable that anyone at this late date will ever come up with tangible physical proof of anything. But if the objects are busying themselves all over the world they *must* be doing something. The UFO researchers have failed to try to determine what that something is. They have been side-tracked by speculations on the "technology" involved, the source of the objects, and the motives behind "government suppression". We will never really learn about the mechanics of a "flying saucer" until we actually catch one. If the source is extraterrestrial then we don't have much of a chance of pinpointing it. Furthermore, there's nothing we could do about it once we did locate the source.

There is only one thing left that can be rationally investigated: the purposes behind their activities. What are they really doing that requires frequent touchdowns in remote areas? What requires the widespread and quite furtive nocturnal activity? Therein lies the secret to the UFO mystery.

In-depth interviews

Early in my investigations I realised this basic fact and I geared my research to find out what was happening on the ground in "flap" areas. The results were rapid and amazing. I began with in-depth interviews with the witnesses of low-level activities. By in-depth I mean that I dug into their whole life history, found out what they ate for breakfast the morning of the sightings, what happened to them later after their report had been published or sent to the Air Force, and so on. I spent hours with the police in the flap areas determining the nature of unusual occurrences which took place during or shortly before the flap began. I hit "pay dirt" immediately. Unlike all other UFO investigators before me, I dropped the business of collecting detailed descriptions about the objects themselves. Those descriptions proved to be totally irrelevant.

Data obtained in a single area is also worthless. So I travelled through twenty states, correlating the occurrences in one hot spot with the incidents in others. I sifted out the nonsense and the obvious coincidences. I found that **the UFO phenomenon is based upon what is happening to people.** The same thing is going on everywhere at once and is largely unnoticed by the press or by the UFO investigators themselves. Certainly the USAF and other government agencies have not taken the trouble to conduct *this* kind of investigation. Therefore I assume that they are really unaware of what is actually going on.

While the objects are fascinating, they are merely vehicles. And vehicles, as we all know, are used to transport personnel and material from one point to another. The incredible scope of the activity of these vehicles rules out simple explanations such as an aerial survey. These things are operating in great numbers, far greater than those indicated in the haphazard reports, and at low-level.

Astounding questions

Wherever I travelled, police officers and high local officials invariably took me aside, one by one, and asked

me the same three astounding questions, urging me never to mention that they asked. I heard these questions again and again. The Governor of a State asked me these questions and two days later a dirt farmer on a remote back road came up with the same identical queries:

(1) Can the UFO occupants walk through walls?
(2) Can they make themselves invisible?
(3) Are there any documented cases of them having kidnapped people?

These are, you must admit, very far out questions. The mere fact hat people everywhere are asking them indicates that something very frightening is going on. These aspects are only whispered about by the ufologists themselves. They received little or no publicity until the publication of Ivan Sanderson's book, *Uninvited Visitors*, in the late fall of 1967.

If that gives you pause, consider the fact that "poltergeist" phenomena breaks out in flap areas concurrent with the flap and continues long after the flap subsides. This in areas that never had any poltergeist cases before the flap began.

We must reconsider our whole approach to the UFO phenomenon. "Science" has proven to be inadequate. It appears that we have misinterpreted many "Occult" happenings for centuries. There may be a basic force at work which unites the UFOs with the occult . . . a deep inter-relationship. The UFO buffs scoff at the "occultists" and vice versa. There has been no attempt at coordinating the various fields of belief. The time has come for us to review all the occult literature and find the links . . . if they exist.

Overlap with parapsychology

Today ESP is widely accepted. It has long been a part of occultism and now it is a tangible part of the UFO mystery. Now we must carefully consider the possibility that trance mediums are not communicating with "the Dead" but are, in fact, serving as mediaries for the same playful entities that throw heavy pieces of furniture around. Parapsychologists claim that poltergeists always operate in the presence of children, usually a boy or girl at the age of puberty. So contemplate this: in the majority of the cases I have investigated in which low-level objects have closely pursued automobiles there was either a child in the car, or the driver or one of the occupants was a *school teacher*. Then look at the growing number of close sightings around schools all over the world, including many touchdowns in school yards.

We have spent twenty years searching for a simple (extraterrestrial "survey") type of conclusion. The truth is undoubtedly infinitely more complex. It may lie completely outside of the recognised and much-touted sciences. The only way to find out is to perform in-depth studies of *everything* happening in the flap areas, and to make correlations of the incidents uncovered in many such areas. This requires standard police and journalistic procedure, not haphazard "scientific" collating of lights-in-the-sky reports. People throughout the U.S. are now caught up in a science-fiction nightmare. We must come to realise that we are dealing with a phenomenon which has all of the implications of science-fiction. We can no longer dismiss the weird and the seemingly irrelevant.

Somebody . . . or something . . . is walking through a lot of walls these days. And the Ufologists are so busy peering through telescopes that they have removed themselves from the true situation, whatever it may be.

Let's stop trying to "prove" the existence, origin, or mechanics of the objects. We've played around for twenty years . . . and gotten almost nowhere. Now let's make a concerted effort to find out what is going on. Put aside your personal beliefs and prejudices. Throw away your worthless "sighting forms" with their endless questions about size, speed and altitude of unidentified vehicles. Find out what the witness had for breakfast, and what kind of phone calls he's been getting, and prod his memory (but *never* ask a "leading" question) about his childhood. You may be astonished at what he comes up with. And after you've talked to enough people and visited enough flap areas, your astonishment will turn to abject horror. You'll throw all your books on astronomy and exobiology into the garbage can and you'll find yourself reconsidering the entire UFO "problem".

PIGEON SHOOT ON THE COL D'ASPIN

Due to an unfortunate error the credit for the article of the above name, which appeared in our last issue, was given to M. Jean C. Dufour who sent it to us in the first instance. We have now learned that the author is Mons. F. Lagarde, of the French review *Lumières dans la Nuit* (see p.ii of cover). We extend our apologies to M. Lagarde for this misunderstanding.

PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION IS THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT

So . . .

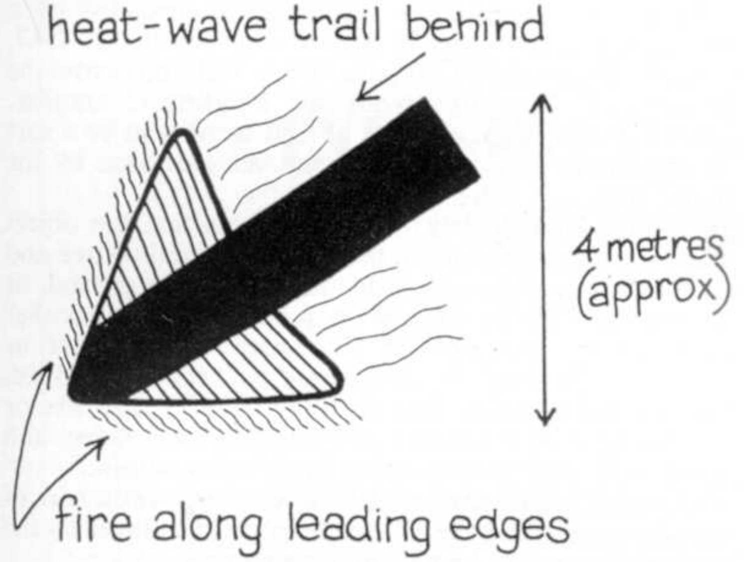
Tell your friends about

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

First Catch Your Flying Saucer

By Gordon Creighton

THE Brazilian priest Humberto Flôres da Cunha[1], vicar of the first parish at Lagoa Vermelha in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, was driving in his car at 8.30 a.m. one day during the first week of August 1965 when, to his great astonishment, there shot across the road just in front of his windshield a most extraordinary unidentified flying object about seven metres long and shaped like an arrow. (See sketch, by Senhor Jader U. Pereira, of Avenida Getulio Vargas 1126, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, who interviewed the priest and the numerous other witnesses.)



Altogether some 50 people saw the object. One of them was a Senhor Orestes Duarte who happened to be riding his horse at the time. Seeing the object flying away over the fields, Senhor Duarte plus horse took off after it and he made a gallant but unsuccessful attempt to capture it with his lasso.

All the witnesses seem to have been in agreement as to the shape of the object, which was flying at only about 50 cms. above the surface of the ground, and with its nose pointing downwards as shown in the sketch. Its "wings" seemed to have wavy surfaces and to be made of what looked like tin-plating, and it was not travelling with the "wings" in the horizontal plane as aircraft do, but with them set vertically.

* * *

No more successful than Gaucho Orestes Duarte was the Finnish farmer Arvi Juntunen,[2] who was standing in his yard greasing one of his machines, at Suomussalmi, Pyyvaara, North-Eastern Finland, at precisely noon on Wednesday, June 20, 1967. It was a bright sunny day. Suddenly Farmer Juntunen heard a loud humming noise "like a whirlwind going by". He looked around and beheld, at the edge of the nearby field, a round shiny grey object suspended about half a metre above the ground.

The distance between the farmer and the object was no more than six or seven metres. The top part of the object was domed, with a wing on it, while the lower portion was flat and rotating at high speed. He estimated the width of the object to be about 70-80 cms.

Farmer Juntunen dashed forward to grab it, and had got to within three paces of it when three antennae emerged. This, as he admits, was somewhat unnerving, and he stopped in his tracks. The object at once began to rise in the air and shot out a powerful blast which created a cloud of dust from the field. Baulked of his prey, he tried to throw his hat over it, and noticed that the hat was immediately blown away from the object by the blast and landed in the field about ten metres distant. The object was meanwhile describing a circle around his house, and then darted away on a dead straight course towards the north-west.

A second witness was Arvi's brother Veikko Juntunen, who was nearby, tarring the woodwork of his sleigh. Arvi had shouted to the women and children who were indoors to come out and see the object, but they had the radio turned on and did not hear him. (Note that no interference with the radio is mentioned.) However, the wife and mother of the neighbouring farmer, Sirkka and Liisa Keränen, heard his shout and rushed out in time to see a brightly shining object fly close by their house and then vanish in the sky.

Questioned by reporters as to what he thought it was, Farmer Arvi Juntunen said that he had previously considered talk about "flying saucers" to be pure humbug, because he had not seen any. "But now I don't know what to think. Because you have to believe what you see, don't you? And besides, my brother and the women of the neighbour's farm saw it too."

He would not hazard a guess as to what the object was made of. He said that seen from the side it resembled a large grey, shiny, iron cooking-pot placed upside down and with a wing on one side. Seen from above it was completely circular, except for the protruding wing. He was quite certain that the object had two distinct parts, and that the lower part was rotating at high speed. Apart from the loud hum no other sound came from the object.

NOTES

1 Original report in newspaper *O Jornal* (Rio de Janeiro), August 8, 1965. Quoted in SBEDV Bulletin (Editor Dr. W. Buhler), No. 48/50 (Jan./June 1966). Actual date of occurrence not mentioned, except that it was in August 1965.

2 Case reported in Finnish newspaper *Kaleva* for June 26, 1967. Credit to Mr. Joel Rehnström of Degerby, Finland, and our thanks to him for his translation.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

Spanish Jets Chase UFO

With other reports from Spain

By Antonio Ribera

THE NAME of the Spanish pilot who made this first report is known to me, but I think it prudent not to publish it. For the record, however, I have passed it on to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

The witness, a member of the Spanish Air Force, was stationed at the Talavera-Badajoz jet fighter base. On June 9, 1967, he and a companion both saw a strange object unlike anything ever seen by them before. Approaching it (they were both flying T-33 jets), they found that it gave no reply to their signals and that, whenever they were vertically above or below it, their radios ceased to function, emitting merely noises resembling, though not identical with, the type of interference effects produced by storms.

The object soon moved off, easily outstripping their jets (which were not a very fast model) and playing the usual game with them, stopping awhile, waiting for them to approach, then moving on again, and so forth.

This sighting took place over the Province of Extremadura, at a height of only 1,200 metres.

The two pilots notified their base and the latter in turn informed the Torrejón field, from which two more fighters of a faster type were sent up. The four occupants of these two fighters experienced the same conditions when they arrived in the vicinity of the object, their radios blacking out, while the object treated them to the same spectacle as was reported by the first two pilots.

Finally, the object was seen by them to shoot straight upwards at vertiginous speed, vanishing instantly from sight.

Triangular object over Catalunia

On the afternoon of September 26, 1967, four local boys were visiting one of their favourite spots on the mountains near Mataró, when they saw something which sent them scuttling home in panic. This was described by them to their father as a triangular-shaped object, which was stationary in the sky above the mountain, emitting luminous beams of a very peculiar kind and rising and falling vertically at intervals. Señor Antonio Trenchis, father of one of the boys, refused adamantly to listen to their story until next day, September 27, when to his great astonishment he saw in the Barcelona newspaper *Vanguardia* a report from the local observatory on Mount Montseny stating that precisely the same phenomenon had been registered by them.

The statement by the Observatory (El Turó del Home) was as follows:

"Between 4.30 and 5.30 p.m. yesterday, at a great height directly above Mt. Montseny, an unidentified object was observed. It was white, shining brilliantly, and remained stationary there until hidden by clouds. Examined through binoculars, it was seen to be triangular in shape. It was higher than the cirrus-type clouds and its altitude can consequently be put at about 10,000 metres above sea-level."

On reading this report, Señor Trenchis informed the *Correo Catalán* of what the boys claimed to have seen, and this newspaper duly printed his letter on December 7, 1967.

A landing near a Spanish broadcasting station

The following report of what looks very much like a landing has come privately from a 28-year-old Spanish radio station technician. [The name and address of the witness and details of the radio station and its location are on file with FSR.]

"I am employed as a maintenance specialist by a broadcasting company in Spain. On October 1, 1967, between 10.30 and 11.00 p.m., I was walking across the grounds of the station from one building to another, when I caught sight of what at first seemed to be a sort of elongated jeep, rather like the vehicles used by the police highway patrols.

"About 700-800 metres distant from me, the object was very brightly illuminated by an external source and was stationary at a small distance from the ground, as though supported or jacked up, for I could also see other light shining from its base. The length of the object, or at least of the brightly illuminated part that I could see, I would set at about four or five metres. It had five or six windows of a somewhat elongated oval shape, and these were very visible, being lit up from within.

"On the upper part of the object there was a sort of square turret, and the distance from this turret to the ground seemed to be about three metres.

"Close by the object, and walking about on the ground around it, were four people whose height I would place at about 1 m. 70 cms. (5ft. 7in.). They were dressed in dark uniforms and protective helmets, as I could see very clearly in the powerful light surrounding the object. These individuals were examining the under-part of the object. Subsequently two of them got up on to the turret and were manipulating some instruments or fittings there.

"After I had stood and watched them for about half an hour, the external illumination was turned off, and only the lighted windows remained visible. Then suddenly and without any sound that I could detect, the thing rose straight up into the air to a height of 150 or 200 metres. At this point I was able to observe that it had a yellow light at each end and a flashing (intermittent) reddish-orange light in the centre.

"Having shot up as described, it hung there a few moments, and there now appeared, a little to the right of the central flashing light, three bluish-green discs. These three discs were touching each other, their axes at an angle of 120°. Then there was an extremely loud metallic sort of noise, and the object shot away out over

the sea, climbing as it went, and was out of sight in two or three seconds."

Comment by Gordon Creighton on the Catalonia Reports

As will be observed, there are important discrepancies in the two accounts, for the boys are described as having been thoroughly frightened by something that gave out luminous beams and which at times descended and at other times rose up again in the sky. The observatory's account does not mention such features.

Antonio Ribera has furnished FLYING SAUCER REVIEW with a private letter from a member of the staff of the observatory, accompanied by a sketch of the object. It is undeniable that the sketch and the account seem to refer unmistakably to the triangular type of object seen by large numbers of witnesses over the area of London and the Home Counties on July 31 and August 1, 1963, and photographed by Mr. R. Spier of Chatham and Mr. Jan Willemstyn of Bushey on those dates (see photographs in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/December 1963, pages 26 and 29). And from the investigations of numerous people it seems well established that the Spier/Willemstyn object was a tetrahedral balloon released by a cosmic ray research unit at Göttingen, Germany. (See letters on page 21 of FSR for March/April 1966 from Robin Sadler, former secretary of the Cambridge University Group for the Investigation of UFOs), and it may very well be that *all* "triangular" and "deltavolant" types of objects will turn out to be nothing more than these tetrahedral balloons. (See likewise the letter about "Moby Dick" high altitude research balloons, on page 28 of FSR for November/December 1967.)

Nobody wants to use valuable space on the reporting of tetrahedral balloons when we have so many far more puzzling phenomena to report, so the more our scientific experts can do to clear up the situation the better. Meanwhile, there seems to be a case for including this Spanish sighting. It can always be written off when we are possessed of more certainty than we have at present that *all* these triangular objects (Brixham and Mallorca cases for example?) definitely are man-made.

AN INVISIBLE SPEAKING UFO?

BY WILHELM S. SIMONSEN

Our contributor is chairman elect of Parafysisk Studiesirkel (Paraphysical Research Group) of Kløfta, Norway.

THIS incident took place in early October 1965, and has not been published before.

While on my way back home, some 500 yds. from the centre of Kløfta, the little village in which I live, some 20 miles to the north of Oslo, Norway, I became aware of a sound coming from the village. It sounded like a loud-speaker car being used for a public announcement. As this is something that happens occasionally, I tried to catch the words, but couldn't make them out. After a minute or so, it occurred to me that the sound came from a portable radio nearby, as it seemed to be closer than I first thought. I still was unable to make out the words, but the voice had a very distinct metallic sound, as one might expect from a small high-powered loud speaker.

However, to my utter astonishment, the sound continued to come nearer, and passed over and in front of me at a distance I would judge to be not more than 50 metres or so, taking into account the previous flight-path. At this point I called out to a girl some 100 yds. away, and she too heard the noise, but could not distinguish the words. She suggested afterwards that the noise came from a loud speaker.

When the phenomenon approached and passed, I was able to make out quite clearly a metallic voice repeating these words in Norwegian: "Hallo, hallo, er det noen her? . . . Hallo, hallo, er det noen her?" In English: "Hello, hello, is there anybody here? . . . Hello, hello, is there anybody here?"

Naturally I was too startled to answer such a question coming from the sky, but I have often wondered what would have happened if I had.

The time of this strange incident was approximately 2130 local time, 8.30 p.m. GMT, and it lasted for a few minutes. After passing me, it apparently continued on its straight course, the sound growing weaker and weaker, and finally disappearing. At the time of the incident it was fairly dark and overcast, and nothing could be seen apart from a possible dark shape, of indeterminate size, floating through the air. This may however have been an illusion stemming from the fact that a sound is expected to come from somewhere. On reflection I feel that the phenomenon must have moved at a speed of between 5 and 15 m.p.h., probably nearer 5 than 15, and at low altitude, perhaps about 100ft.

No plausible "natural" explanation has been found so far, as one must consider the possibility of a talking bird as rather unsatisfactory. The possibility of some kind of practical joke can be excluded too, as the "thing" was completely silent except for the "voice". This should rule out anything like a model aircraft equipped with loudspeaker and other necessary equipment for the repetition of words.

Perhaps we have here a link between the mysterious telephone calls recently reported in large numbers throughout the USA, and a regular sighting. Or was it possibly an instance of a link between the physical (or paraphysical) and the parapsychological?

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

U.S.S.R.

UFOs reported by astronomers, and other sources

The following report appeared in the *Soviet Weekly* of February 10, 1968 (editorial address: 3 Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.7).

"Unidentified flying objects are now so firmly established as a problem that an international effort is needed to solve it, says Assistant Professor Felix Zigel of the Moscow Institute of Aviation.

" 'It is not ruled out,' he says, 'that the solution could lead to some radical rethinking, just as would the solution of the problem of quasars in astronomy or that of quarks in physics.'

"At first, reports of sightings of UFOs in the Soviet Union were the field only of individual 'enthusiasts', but last year a committee of scientists and other specialists was formed to make a systematic study of the reports.

"They have only some 200 'sightings' reported, but a preliminary analysis of them indicates that there is something needing thorough investigation.

Astronomers' observations

"On July 18, September 4, October 18 and other days of 1967, crescent-shaped UFOs were seen over southern parts of the Soviet Union, according to reports from the Mountain Astronomical Station near Kislovodsk, from the astronomical observatory in Kazan, and from several private individuals.

"The most characteristic type of UFO is a luminous orange-coloured crescent with a diameter of 15 to 20ft. of arc (about a quarter of a degree), flying with its outward bend first.

"Its surface is reported only a little less luminous than that of the Moon.

"The horns of the crescent throw out jets, sometimes with sparks. The outer contour of the crescent is sharp and the inner contour, blurred and wavy.

"Sometimes a bright flaming disc, preceded by a crescent is observed. And sometimes the crescent is preceded and flanked by what look like first-magnitude stars, which keep at a constant distance from it.

"Kazan astronomers, who carried out their observations from two points simultaneously, set the diameter of the crescent-shaped UFOs at 500-600 metres and their speed at some five kilometres a second.

"Assuming that the crescent is a luminous shock wave, the UFOs must fly at altitudes between 30 and 65 miles. Such objects could not have been made by man. They are definitely not sputniks or space rockets.

School director's sighting

"Among the few daytime sightings is one sent by V. I. Duginov, director of the Kherson Hydrometeorological School: 'On October 20, 1966, as I waited for a trolleybus after a visit to the stadium, I saw, together with some 50 others, a round disc of about one-third the sun's diameter right overhead.

'The disc was of a pearly-silvery colour and moved slowly eastwards.'

Latvian report

"On July 26, 1965, Latvian astronomers Robert Vitolniek, Jan Melderis and Esmeralda Vitolniek were studying silvery clouds from the observation station of Ogra in Latvia.

"At 9.35 p.m., in the gathering dusk, they spotted an unusually bright star slowly flying westward. Viewed through x8 binoculars, the star appeared as a small flat spot. The telescope revealed a small ball in the centre of the lens-shaped disc.

"The astronomers set the disc diameter at about 100 metres. Around the disc, at a distance of two diameters, there were three balls similar to the one in the centre of the disc.

"The balls slowly rotated around the disc, and the whole system dwindled as it receded from the earth.

"Some 15-20 minutes later, the balls began to depart from the disc in different directions. The ball in the centre also left its place and flew aside.

"Finally, at 10 p.m., all these bodies, which emitted a greenish-pearly glow, faded into the distance.

Polar aerial sighting

"Particularly interesting observations of UFOs have been made from planes.

" 'In 1956,' V. I. Akkuratov, flag-navigator of the polar aviation service, reports, 'having pierced the clouds (over Greenland) we suddenly spotted a strange flying vehicle to port, moving close to our course.

" 'The vehicle resembled a big pearl-coloured lens with wavy, pulsating edges.

" 'To avoid collision with it, we dived back into the clouds. After 40 minutes of flight in the direction of Medvezhi island, the clouds suddenly receded, and as we got into clear sky we noticed again the same flying object to port.

" 'We changed course sharply and began to approach it. In response, the UFO also changed course and flew parallel to us at a speed equal to our own.

" 'After 15-18 minutes, the object changed its course sharply, surged ahead of us and shot up fast, melting into the blue of the sky.

" 'We detected no aerials, superstructure, wings or portholes on the disc.

" 'There was neither a gas jet exhaust, nor a vapour trail, and the speed of its departure was so great that the whole phenomenon seemed something supernatural.'

"The crew of an IL-18 airliner (Commander Petrov) had a similar experience in daytime at an altitude of 25,000ft., near Tiksi Bay.

Comment

" 'The material collected, to say nothing of the numerous reports from abroad, suggests that the UFO phenomenon is real and cannot be identified with any known natural phenomenon —with the anomalous optical phenomena in the earth's atmosphere, for instance,' claims Professor Zigel.

" 'Quite a number of UFOs have been observed over the USSR, and it is noteworthy that the UFO forms observed here fit into the classification of these objects accepted in the West, in the USA in particular.

" 'It is safe to claim that the UFO problem has assumed a global character and therefore calls for a global research.

" 'International scientific co-operation in the solution of this problem would long have become a reality, hadn't sensationalism and irresponsible anti-scientific assertions about flying saucers interfered with it.

" 'I have a profound respect for the efforts of such well-known American scientists as Professors J. Hynek and J. McDonald who are vigorously and with good reason trying to attract the attention of America's scientific public to the UFO problem.

" 'Unfortunately, certain scientists, both in the Soviet Union and in the United States, deny the very existence of the problem, instead of helping to solve it.

" 'The main requirement at present is to organise systematic instrumental study of UFOs from astronomical and

meteorological observatories, to get good photographs and spectra of these objects.

" 'When we have good experimental material we shall probably be able to establish whether the UFOs are of plasma origin or whether they come from another planet.

" 'Both hypotheses may prove erroneous, and the truth may lie somewhere else'. "

U.S.S.R.

Academy of Sciences counterblast

Many British newspapers carried this story; one of the more detailed accounts appeared in the *Glasgow Evening Times* of March 12, 1968. Here is an extract:

"Russia's first co-ordinated study of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) appears to have died ignominiously, shot down by scepticism and conservatism among the Soviet scientific establishment.

"It is now a matter of record that sightings of alleged "flying saucers" have been reported in the Soviet Union. At least a few scientists and military men are so anxious to study the phenomenon that they are willing to lay their career on the line.

"A special commission to study UFOs was set up by these enthusiasts last year. During its brief existence, it managed to win considerable television time—apparently despite heavy opposition—to state its case.

"Now it has, in effect, been killed by the Academy of Sciences, the huge State body which includes all leading scientists, sponsors all major scientific research, controls all scientific funds and publications and therefore has the last word on what goes on in Soviet laboratories.

"A special academy report wrote off all UFOs as 'myths' and said study of them was 'anti-scientific'. It based its argument—at least in public—on the contention that, if flying saucers existed, scientists would already know about them. Scientists do not know about them, ergo they do not exist, ergo any research is a waste of time.

"The report, as published in *Pravda*, did not flatly ban future research. But when the Academy of Sciences brands a work as 'anti-scientific', no career-minded Soviet scientists would consider lending his hand to it.

"The academy report appeared to bring the Soviet attitude full circle to the one that prevailed here for years—that flying saucers, or UFOs of any kind, were nothing more than a silly season invention of the Western press.

[*It should be noted that this Soviet Academy line followed about one week after Dr. Condon, head of the Colorado project, had been reported as having asked the Soviet Academy of Sciences to collaborate*—EDITOR].

(*Continued on Page iii of cover*)

TWENTY YEARS BACK - 6

by Brinsley Le Poer Trench

THE late Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of the USAF Project Blue Book investigating flying saucers, stated in his book that on July 21, 1948, a report had been received from the Netherlands that several witnesses the previous day had seen a UFO through high broken cloud over the Hague. The object was rocket-shaped with two rows of windows along the side.

Ruppelt added that the report was very incomplete and would have been forgotten if a similar UFO had not had a near collision with an Eastern Airlines DC-3 over the United States four nights later.

As a prelude to this event, a shell-shaped UFO was sighted by personnel at Robbins Air Force base at Macon, Georgia, at 1.55 a.m. on July 24. Observers saw multi-coloured vapours streaming from the rear of the object which was a brilliant sight in the night sky.

An hour later, Captain Clarence S. Chiles and his co-pilot, John B. Whitted, were flying in a DC-3 airliner from Houston, Texas, to Atlanta, Georgia. At 2.45 a.m., twenty miles west of Montgomery, Alabama, they spotted what they mistook for a jet fighter streaking towards them.

"It was heading south-west," Chiles said, "exactly opposite our course. Whatever it was flashed down towards us with terrific speed. We veered to the left. It veered sharply, too, and passed us about 700ft. to the right. I saw then it had no wings."

Since the craft passed by on Whitted's side he got a good look at it. "It was about 100ft. long," he said. "Cigar-shaped and wingless, about twice the diameter of a B-29 with no protruding fins".

Both he and Chiles agreed the cabin had the brilliance of a magnesium flare. They saw no occupants.

Chiles stated: "An intense dark-blue glow came from the side of the ship and ran the entire length of the fuselage—like a blue fluorescent light. The exhaust was a red-orange flame, with a lighter colour predominant around the edges."

Both agreed the flame extended behind the ship 30 to 50ft. Chiles noticed that the snout looked like it had a radar pole extending from it; and both noticed two rows of windows. (Note here similarity of their description with that of the UFO seen over the Hague —B. Le P.T.)

Chiles said: "As it went by the pilot pulled up as if he'd just seen the DC-3 and wanted to avoid us. At that point there was a tremendous burst of flame from the rear of the UFO. It zoomed into the clouds, its jet wash rocking our DC-3." He estimated that its speed was somewhere between five and seven hundred miles an hour.

As the ship vanished Chiles went back to check the passengers. All were asleep except Clarence McKelvie who said he had seen a brilliant streak of light flash past his window, but it had gone too swiftly for him to catch any details.

General George C. Kenney, then chief of Strategic Air Command, stated that the USAF possessed no machines resembling this "cigar".

Finally, it is of interest that Ruppelt confirmed in his book that reports of Scandinavian "ghost rockets" (*Twenty Years Back*, FSR, May/June 1967) which began in 1946 were still being received in early 1948. Shortly afterwards they ceased in the same sudden manner that they had arrived. Perhaps it was one of those strange objects that Chiles and Whitted encountered on that never-to-be-forgotten flight.

SOURCES

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ROUND-UP OF BRITAIN'S AUTUMN FLAP

Part II

by Dan Lloyd

These cases have all been culled from newspaper accounts of incidents. We are aware that the reports are often vague where important detail is concerned, but Mr. Lloyd presents them in the knowledge that those researchers who wish to investigate in greater detail will at least have the name of the newspaper, and the date, to provide a lead.

I WILL take up the continuing chronicle of the autumn wave with the remainder of the reports of **October 26**—and remember, it was during the morning of the 26th that Mr. Angus Brooks, former B.O.A.C. Comet Flight Administration Officer, saw the arrival, twenty-minute hovering sojourn, and swift departure of a remarkable metallic cross-shaped object which was capable of moving two of its arms while hovering.

Canterbury Tales

A mystery flying object which was seen by a student at the University of Kent, **Canterbury,** at about 8.00 p.m., puzzled the Canterbury police. The object was soundless, cigar-shaped and had about a dozen red flashing lights on it. According to the police it could have been an American plane refuelling in the air—that was Sunday's explanation. On Monday, they said it could have been a plane coming in to land at Manston or Southend airport. (*Kent Messenger*, November 3.) It is just possible, of course, that it could have been a UFO!

Gloucestershire police received reports of another of the giant white crosses. This one was seen at 11.40 p.m. over **Tuffley.** According to the observer, the giant white cross of a dazzling brilliance appeared out of nowhere. It was enough to light the top of the houses and there was a halo of emerald-green around the top half. There was no noise and it moved at great speed. (*Gloucester Citizen*, October 27.)

Following the reports of mystery objects over **Huyton** on October 25, strange noises were heard in the area. They were heard in the early hours of the morning and were described as sounding like an express train rushing through a tunnel, which changed to a piercing, high-pitched oscillating sound. The noise faded away after about 10 minutes. Nothing was seen. One of the witnesses said that he had never heard anything like it before. (*Liverpool Echo*, October 26.)

A brilliant white object was seen to land about 10 miles from **Astley,** South Lancashire. Just over an hour later, the object was seen to rise again and take off. According to one observer, the object was the most brilliant light she had ever seen. (*Leigh Reporter*, November 2.)

Four Crosses Seen

Four star-shaped objects were seen near **Alnwick,** Northumberland. The objects remained visible for 30 minutes and were described as about twenty times larger than any star. The crosses were very plain and there was a kind of glow around them. (*Edinburgh Evening News*, October 26.)

Another of the familiar cigar-shaped objects, this time surrounded by a bright green glow, was seen by a bus driver over the Sussex coast near **Brighton.** Sparks were coming from its tail and for a short time it travelled on a parallel course with the bus. (*Nuneaton Evening Tribune*, October 27.)

At 7.00 a.m. on this day of extraordinary activity, a **Slough,** Buckinghamshire, housewife saw a glowing ball hanging in the sky just before sunrise. It seemed quite low and was about the size of a football. She described it as very bright and hard to look at, and was sort of silvery at the centre with a white halo of light round it. Then it seemed as though it started to spin and it dipped lower and moved in a circle as though it were inspecting something on the ground. It moved off across the sky northwards and went out of sight.

That evening, at about 5.30 p.m., a silver, oval object was seen in the sky near **Maidenhead.** It split up into six smaller discs which moved off as though following the M4 motorway. (*Slough Observer*, November 3.)

To wind up the events of October 26, a bright object, six or seven times bigger than a rugby football and similar in shape, was seen over **Hawick,** Scotland, at about 8.30 p.m. It had a brilliant white light at the centre which faded towards the outer part. After two or three minutes the object revolved in a clockwise direction. Then it began to move slowly in the Carlisle direction. (*Hawick News*, November 3.)

October 27: A police report

The events of this day got under way at about 4.00 a.m., when Poclie Constable Earnshaw, on duty at **Bacup** police station, picked up strange interference on the station's personal radio receiver. He went outside and saw a cigar-shaped object about 50ft. in length by 10ft. in diameter hovering an estimated 250ft. above the police station. He watched the object for a minute or two and saw several port-holes along the side. There was a low whirring noise. He was joined by two other officers who watched the object for several minutes. The UFO then moved off rapidly towards Bacup golf course. Two of the police constables followed the object in a police car but lost it when the object shot into the sky perpendicularly at a fast speed. (*Bolton Evening News*, October 27.)

In **Birmingham,** two hospital porters on duty early in the morning saw a yellow glowing cylinder high overhead. The object hovered above the East Birmingham Hospital for a minute before vanishing. (*Birmingham Evening Mail*, October 27.)

Another police sighting

Another early-morning mystery visitor appeared over **Glossop,** Derbyshire, and was seen by six men from the Cheshire police force stationed just over the Derbyshire border, and two members of the public. The object was first seen by two constables at 4.15 a.m. Fifteen minutes later it was spotted by another constable nearby, who reported the object to be moving from side to side over Glossop. The object eventually disappeared into a misty cloud. (*Derby Evening Telegraph*, October 27.)

At 4.40 a.m., a sound like the "revving" of a high-powered motor attracted a housewife's attention to a brilliant, bluish object travelling in the sky towards **Dunston,** near Newcastle-on-Tyne. The object appeared to be a brilliant, inverted "V". It hovered over Dunston power station and then disappeared. A few minutes later it appeared again and was watched for a long while before it finally vanished. (*Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, October 28.)

That evening, at 9.10 p.m., a red light was noticed in the sky above Ealing. Two bright lights were seen close together, each in a perfect cross

shape. There was some kind of red glow either in the middle of the object or behind it. (*Middlesex County Times*, Ealing, November 3.)

October 28

A bright, cross-shaped object was seen in the **Warrington** area at about 6.30 p.m. It was bright golden in colour and hovered over fields adjoining the motorway. It was circular and had two cross-shaped projections. A piece of metal was seen to drop from it and then the object vanished completely. (*Liverpool Daily Post*, October 30.)

A landing near Southend ?

That night a taxi driver watched a huge object with flashing lights hovering above trees near **Eastwood,** Southend. It appeared to be about 500 yds. from him and was ringed by fluorescent light. At one point it dipped down towards the trees, then it returned and hovered and all he could see was a red flashing light. After he had watched it for some five minutes, the object rose with astonishing speed and disappeared behind cloud. He did not see it again. Earlier in the evening the taxi driver had seen the same craft about 200ft. above the trees. He first saw a flashing red light on the dome. As the object went over nearby fields, he saw huge green and white flashing lights. On the two occasions that be saw it, the object made no sound. (*Southend Standard*, November 2.)

A bullet-shaped object was seen hovering for a few seconds over an electricity sub-station near **South Shields,** Durham. It was seen by three boys who described it as 8ft. in length, with a glowing green outline. As they watched, it rose quickly and noiselessly and disappeared. As it flew away, a white spot glowed on its underside. The boys claim that some brown lines, apparently burn marks, on the roof of the building were left by the object as it flew off. They say the burn marks were not there prior to the object's appearance. (*Shields Gazette*, October 30.) Here is yet another instance of the unusual interest these unknown aerial objects appear to be taking in power stations and their like. This time it appears to have been a burning interest!

At 7.40 a.m., two brilliant white lights were seen hovering below a bank of deep cloud near **Staines.** After about a minute they climbed into the sky at a fantastic rate and were lost to sight. (*Staines and Egham News*, November 3.)

Officially explained: "Balloon"

A silver-grey shape with a bright silver streak down the middle and with four lights at the bottom was seen hanging motionless amid trees by a **Merthyr,** South Wales, housewife shortly after midnight on Friday, October 27-28. Frightened, she went to bed without telling anyone. By the morning the object had disappeared. The Meteorological Office explanation is that it was probably a radio-sonde—or weather balloon—which had got caught in the trees. (*Merthyr Express*, November 2.) If this is so, then presumably the balloon must have been leaking to have made a descent to tree-top height. As the object was not found when police investigated the area, are we to assume that someone repaired the leak in the middle of the night in order to release it again? Perhaps the Met. Office would care to explain this aspect of the mystery!

Auto-stop

We are very familiar with cases in which UFOs have stopped cars when nearby. Another incident of this nature appears to have taken place at 6.45 p.m. near **Tunbridge Wells,** Kent. When their car stalled, the occupants looked up and saw what appeared to be a triangular shape in the sky in front of them. The object, the base of which was hidden behind the houses and trees, was composed of six very bright white lights, and was shaped "like a church steeple". The lights seemed to give a hazy glow to the shape, which was described as of a whitish colour. There was no noticeable sound from the object. The object then moved off very slowly towards Brighton. (*Tunbridge Wells Advertiser*, November 1.)

October 29

There was another spate of sightings on this day. Just after 6.00 a.m., a **Shrewsbury** woman glanced from her bedroom window and saw a triangular shape and several glowing lights in the sky. The triangular-shaped object was just "under" the moon and glowing brightly. It stayed there for a few seconds and then turned over and disappeared. Then a ball appeared in the sky and suddenly a bright light came up "on top" of the moon, with a smaller light close to it. This smaller light suddenly broke into two before they all started to travel slowly across the sky until they were out of sight. (*Shropshire Star*, October 31.)

A golden object in the shape of a rugby football was seen resting on the **Sussex** Downs at about 6.45 p.m. At first it glowed like an electric light and then it turned blood-red. Police searched the area with tracker dogs but nothing was found. (*Worthing Herald*, November 3.)

Three **Dundee** boys saw a red light moving slowly across the sky about 200ft. up. Every now and then it would stop. No sound came from the object. (*Dundee Courier*, October 31.)

Low-level visitation

Northampton joined the list of places visited by UFOs when two teenage girls saw a silent, orange-coloured, cigar-shaped object approaching from an easterly direction at about 4.45 p.m. It flew around them and came down and hovered over the grass. All the time it was changing colour from orange to yellow, then white, and finally reverted to a dull grey. Then it flew off. One of the girls said that when the object came down there was a funny green haze around it, but that this went when the object left. (*Northampton Chronicle*, October 30.)

Rothbury, Northumberland, appeared to be under surveillance between 10.30 and 11.00 p.m. A shimmering white and blue object hung motionless in the east. It was bigger than any star and about as bright as a car's dipped headlight. After twenty minutes the object started to rise into the sky, slowly moving from side to side, and eventually was obscured by thick cloud. The object made no sound. (*Northumberland Gazette*, November 3.)

Another mysterious flying cross was spotted in the sky over **St. Annes,** Lancashire, at 1.30 a.m. The object was about 750ft. long and travelled at about 150 m.p.h. towards the south-west, then tilted, revealing a cross, and shot off at a terrific speed to the north. (*West Lancashire Evening Gazette*, October 30.)

A mystery object was seen over **Burnley** at 7.00 p.m. It was bright red and irregular in shape, and was about twenty times larger than a star. There was no noise as the object slowly approached the town centre. (*Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, October 30.)

Astronomer watches unusual display

Possibly the same objects that were seen by the Shrewsbury woman reported above were seen by an amateur astronomer in **Hartlepool,** Durham, in the early hours of the morning. Looking through his telescope, he spied two white objects moving through the sky. Seconds later a third white object appeared. "They moved across the sky in an inverted "V" formation and then stopped dead," he said. He watched them for an hour and they never moved. Then they started to zig-zag towards the moon, changing colour first to green, then blue and finally a bright red. He could not see any details because the red colour seemed to enshroud them. It was very bright but he could see that they were oval in shape. When they "reached" the moon, all three objects disappeared and he could not pick them up in his sights again. (*Northern Daily Mail*, October 31.)

An object that flew over **London** at a

fantastic speed at about 4.45 p.m. was variously described as orange and golden. It first appeared to be an orange ball with three long trails coming from it. When it turned it was like a huge cigar. Another report described the object as appearing like a golden-coloured cigar-shaped object which hung vertically in the sky. As the object vanished it left vapour trails behind it. (*Western Mail*, October 30.)

October 30

A mysterious cigar-shaped object was seen in the sky over **Halifax.** The time was about 7.30 p.m. and the object appeared to be hovering in mid-air and was giving off sparks. Then it vanished. (*Halifax Courier & Guardian*, October 31.)

On the same day a UFO was seen over **Ashford,** Kent. The object was shaped like a vacuum-cleaner and passed over the town in an east-west direction. It was greyish in colour and made no noise. (*Kent Messenger*, November 3.)

Two Devon schoolboys claimed to have seen a 50ft.-long cigar-shaped object travelling over **Exmouth.** The object, which they watched for about fifteen minutes, was fairly low in the sky. At times, two large red lights seemed to shine from it. (*Glasgow Herald*, October 31.)

October 31

Two **Sidmouth** men saw a bright object in the sky shaped like a rough cross with an oval ring around it. The object, which was stationary, appeared to be about 1,000ft. up. The time was about 6.15 p.m. and the sky was dark and clear. The object was described as being orange in colour and unlike anything the witnesses had ever seen before. (*Exeter Express & Echo*, November 2.)

Two rapidly spinning objects, shaped like saucers and light grey in colour, were seen near **Great Yarmouth.** The objects finally went up swiftly and disappeared in the clouds. (*Western Mail*, November 1.)

A mystery ball that glowed like red-hot coals in the centre with a white perimeter was seen near **Midhurst** at about 2.30 a.m. The shape was something like a rugby football, but irregular at the rear and sides. As it changed direction, sparks were seen to come from the rear. A sound like a suction noise was also heard. (*Brighton Evening Argus*, November 1.)

November 1

On November 1, a similar object was seen again over **Midhurst.** It was seen at about 2.00 a.m. and was observed to change shape from round to oval and alter colour from red to green to white. It had antennae like a sputnik and these were white. (*Hampshire Telegraph*, November 9.)

Two strange objects visited **Cork,** Eire, at about 10.30 p.m. Both objects were stated to be circular in shape and to have been about two miles apart. One had a glow of white light around it and the other a glow of orange light. They appeared to be stationary and remained in the area for about forty-five minutes before disappearing. (*Cork Evening Echo*, November 2.)

Eleven workmen saw one of the familiar flying crosses at 3.15 a.m. near **Fordwich,** Kent. Although the star-shaped object moved slightly, it remained in relatively the same position until dawn. (*Kent Messenger*, November 3.)

Guildford, Surrey, was also visited by UFOs. Two mysterious bright yellow lights were seen to come from opposite directions and stop very close to one another. Then they separated, closed up again and went into the distance and faded. Their speed was described as fantastic. (*Surrey Mirror*, November 3.)

November 2

There were two sightings on this day.

The first was our old friend the flying cross. It was seen at 6.15 a.m., over **Billericay,** Essex. It was described as extremely bright with sparks coming off it just like a sparkler firework. The object, which was watched for some one-and-a-half minutes, floated over the police station. The edges of the cross-shaped object were blurred by the haze of light. (*Basildon Standard*, November 3.)

The second sighting was reported over **Exmouth** at 7.40 p.m. The object, a "bright glowing golden" colour, about the size and shape of a grape-fruit, became stationary and started to blink on and off every few seconds, about six times in all. Then it seemed to become redder in colour and it started to move off in the direction it had come from. Climbing rapidly, it soon disappeared among the stars. (*Exmouth Journal*, November 4.)

November 3

A ball of white light and a fast-moving oval-shaped red object were seen over **Stafford,** but the most interesting item was the "Canterbury Comment" by the *Kent Messenger's* news editor, Oliver Petts. After mentioning that many of the UFO sightings in Devon and Sussex were made by policemen on patrol in the early hours of the morning, he relates that there was an amusing sequel when the Chief Constable of East Sussex (see October 25) got all his night crews out of bed to meet at headquarters where they were all persuaded that what they had seen was the planet Venus.

The source of the Chief Constable's privileged information, other than divine inspiration, is not given. But then the wee small hours are traditionally reserved for messages from above!

November 5

There was a dramatic sighting by long-distance lorry driver Mr. Carl Farlow as he travelled along the main Salisbury-Bournemouth road at **Ibsley** late at night. (Charles Bowen mentioned this case in the November/December issue of the REVIEW.) At 11.30 p.m. a cigar-shaped object, about 12ft. in length with a white dome underneath, landed in the road in front of him. Mr. Farlow said that at the same time a Jaguar car was travelling in the opposite direction. The lights on both the lorry and the car failed and both vehicles stopped, though the Diesel engine of the lorry continued running.

After about two minutes the UFO, which was showing green lights, became airborne again and flew off towards the east. Then the lights of both the lorry and the car came on again. (*Southern Evening Echo*, November 6.) Here we have yet further confirmation of the paralysing effect of these strange craft on the electrical systems of vehicles which come into close contact with them.

Another incident involving a lorry driver and a UFO was reported in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of November 7. The date of the incident is not given, but it occurred while Mr. Dave Stotter was driving along the M6 motorway from Darwen, Lancashire, to London. Mr. Stotter had reached the turning to **Holmes Chapel** when he realised that "a thing was above him".

The "thing" was a black circular mass with purple-blue flames coming from the outer edges. At the forward edge was a cluster of lights. For about six miles the big saucer hovered overhead and when Mr. Stotter pulled in to get a good look at it, it veered off and swung north up the motorway. On this occasion, there appeared to be no interference with the lorry's electrical system.

November 6

Why UFOs should take particular interest in moving vehicles is not known, but interest there undoubtedly is, for on November 6, at 6.15 a.m., a glowing, pulsating object followed a car for several miles on the outskirts of **Burnley.** Eventually the disc-like object was joined by another, similar object, and the two craft travelled in front of the car until the driver reached his home and called out his wife, who also saw the two objects. At one point the driver of the car switched off his engine

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and opened the window, but he could hear no sound from the strange objects, nor could he discern any colours, as he is colour-blind. (*Halifax Courier & Guardian*, November 7.)

At about 8.55 p.m. on the same day, a bright object like a "distorted Mercedes 3-pronged emblem" was seen by two men near **Reading,** Berkshire. When the object was almost overhead, something seemed to drop from it and burn up. (*Reading Evening Post*, November 7.)

Another of the mysterious yellow crosses was seen hovering over **Bradford** at about 4.00 p.m. After a few seconds, it seemed to shudder, diminish in size and then disappear.

In the evening a bright object flickering like a star was seen over the Bramley area of **Leeds.** A compass bearing was taken on the object as it approached from the south-west. When it suddenly veered north, the needle of the compass began to swing violently backwards and forwards. (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, November 7.) Here is another demonstration of the powerful magnetic effect that is exerted by UFOs. It would be interesting to know whether any of our UFO detector owners in the area had an alarm that would coincide with this sighting.

Hundreds of spectators at Wigan's Springfield Park football ground took their eyes from the floodlit game to watch a massive strip of golden light hover overhead for six minutes, vanishing occasionally and reappearing. (*Bolton Evening News*, November 7.) The game appears to have had unexpected supporters!

November 7

At 4.30 a.m., Mr. Fred Bissell was awakened by a bright light shining in the window of his home at Walton, near **Clacton-on-Sea.** He looked out and saw an object resembling a dustbin lid hovering over Walton Pier. The object hovered backwards and forwards, with a bright light beaming down from it. No noise could be heard from the object, which suddenly shot off at a terrific speed towards Harwich, turning on its side to resemble a cigar. It then returned and again hovered over the pier before shooting off southwards. Two police officers at Clacton reported seeing orange lights at about the same time. The description of this UFO corresponds closely with that given by four yachtsmen off Clacton at about the same time on September 12. (*East Essex Gazette*, November 10.)

At the same time as Mr. Bissell's sighting, Mrs. Mabel Allen was awakened at her home in **Wirral,** Cheshire, by a terrific roaring noise. Looking out, she saw a huge light in the sky, stationary and high up. With the naked eye it looked like a blurred cross. She woke her husband who fetched his binoculars and they watched the object for five to ten minutes. Through the binoculars, the object appeared to be saucer-shaped with lights all round it. Mrs. Allen described it as "enormous". Then the object swiftly rose higher and vanished, the noise also dying away. (*Liverpool Echo*, November 7.)

November 9

The last report for this period of intense activity is of a sighting at 5.30 p.m. over **Great Billing,** Northamptonshire. The dazzlingly-bright object was in the shape of a cross and changed colour from brilliant white to tangerine. It was seen travelling very fast, then very slowly and finally stopping. In all, the object was observed for ten minutes. (*Northants. Evening Telegraph*, November 10.)

Summing up, the most that can be said about this "flap" is that more people than ever before saw things in the sky unlike anything they had ever seen before. We are no nearer to solving the UFO mystery, but at least we can point to an increasing number of people, many of them trained observers, who were witnessing "bilge" with mounting interest!

(*Continued from Page 29*)

PERU

UFO squadron over Lima

From the São Paulo newspaper *Notícias Populares* of March 10, 1967, we learn that—

"In a densely populated area of Greater Lima, hundreds of people witnessed the appearance of UFOs. The objects, about 15 of them, were flying low and caused great excitement among the public.

"According to the Lima paper *La Prensa*, the event occurred in the Comas district, not far outside the city. Witnesses told reporters that the objects were flying around at low altitudes 'as if they wanted to get to know us better'. They were very large and of a silvery colour.

"Later, according to the same Lima paper, a policeman said he had watched a flying saucer near the International Airport. He said the brilliant circular object disappeared towards the north, and had appeared from the south."

Credit: Nigel Rimes.

CHILE

Three saucers alarm populace

Again from the São Paulo *Notícias Populares*, edition of June 21, 1967, we find that—

"Agricultural workers have seen a squadron of three flying saucers flying very fast in zigzag movements over the town of Mulluri (2,300 km. to the North of Santiago, and in the neighbourhood of the Bolivian frontier). The three objects emitted a powerful and strange light, which kept changing from orange-red to light blue. After wheeling about overhead for almost a quarter of an hour, the objects vanished, leaving the populace of the region in an uproar."

Credit: Nigel Rimes.

MAILBAG

(*Continued from Page 22*)

Defective vision ?

Sir,—Dr. Bernard E. Finch in his article *Can they see us?* (March/April 1968 issue) suggests that imperfections in the vision of UFO pilots may account for apparently erratic course and reported near-misses. This theory will not stand a moment's examination on any count. For one thing, crashed UFOs would not be particularly uncommon.

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The current issue of LOOK magazine (the issue for May 15, 1968) hit the North American news stands on April 30 with a staggering article by John G. Fuller. On May 1, FSR received a Xeroxed version of the article, taken from an advance copy of the magazine, thanks to the kindness of Dr. James McDonald, the University of Arizona atmospheric physicist. Thanks also to Ralph Rankow for tear sheets of the article.

The article is entitled **Flying Saucer Fiasco,** and it carries the introduction: *"The extraordinary story of the half-million-dollar 'trick' to make Americans believe the Condon Committee was conducting an objective investigation."*

Mr. Fuller traces the sorry history of the University of Colorado Project: the distressing situation that obtains at the Boulder headquarters is starkly revealed. Full details are given of the sacking of Drs. Saunders and Levine (see FSR, March/April '68, STOP PRESS). This unhappy episode stemmed from a memorandum which had been sent to the University by Robert Low (Project Co-ordinator) on August 9, 1966, *before* the contract was signed. A file copy of the memo was seen by Saunders and Levine, and they were so disturbed that they communicated the contents to Dr. McDonald. John G. Fuller then relates how Dr. McDonald, in an argument with Mr. Low, revealed that he knew about the memo. The sackings followed soon afterwards.

The controversial note contained the passage: ". . . Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by non-believers who, although they couldn't possibly *prove* a negative result, could and probably would add an impressive body of evidence that there is no reality to the observations. The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community would present the image of a group of non-believers trying their best to be objective, but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer. One way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomena, but rather of the people who do the observing—the psychology and sociology of persons and groups who report seeing UFOs. If the emphasis were put here rather than on examination of the old question of the physical reality of the saucer, I think the scientific community would quickly get the message . . . I'm inclined to feel . . . if we set up the thing right . . . we could carry the job off to our benefit."

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